

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Winter 2000 . Volume 70 . Number 1



IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Kayleen A. Niyo, Editor, 1531 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, IA 50010 (kniyo@aol.com)

Ann Barker, Spring Bird Count Editor, 3204 Crestline Drive, Davenport, IA 52803 (AnnBarker4@aol.com)

Robert Cecil, Winter Field Reports Editor, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311 (wewarb@aol.com)

James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Stephen J. Dinsmore, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521 (steve_dinsmore@nhs.gov)

James L. Fuller, Fall Field Reports Editor, 6 Longview Knoll, N.E., Iowa City, IA 52240 (james-fuller@uiowa.edu)

Matthew C. Keene, Spring Field Reports Editor, 709 N Phillips, Algona, IA 50511 (meekeckk@rconnect.com)

FRONT COVER: *Red-breasted Nuthatch in Minnesota.*

September 1999. Photo by Reid I. Allen.

DESIGN: *Lynn Ekblad, Ames, Iowa*

Copyright 2000 Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

CONTENTS

Meet an Iowa Ornithologist: Dean Roosa <i>by Hank Zaletel</i>	2
Effects of Prescribed Burning on Prairie Birds at Mines of Spain, Dubuque, Iowa <i>by Jessica L. Lawent and Larkin A. Powell</i>	6
1999 Spring Bird Count <i>by Ann Barker</i>	16
1999 Fall Field Reports <i>by Thomas H. Kent</i>	32
Hudsonian Godwit Mortality at Des Moines <i>by Ryan Powers and James J. Dinsmore</i>	45
Great Gray Owl in Polk County <i>by James J. Dinsmore and Malia A. Schepers</i>	46
Garganey at Forney Lake <i>by James J. Dinsmore and Malia A. Schepers</i>	47
Letter to the Editor <i>by James J. Dinsmore</i>	49
In Memoriam — John M. Osness <i>by Hank Zaletel</i>	50
Book Review <i>by James J. Dinsmore</i>	51
Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life <i>by James J. Dinsmore</i>	53
Note from Editor <i>by Kayleen A. Niyo</i>	54

Meet an Iowa Ornithologist: Dean Roosa

Hank Zaletel

Dean Roosa is truly a man for all seasons. Many know him as the state of Iowa's ecologist, or, as IOU President, or, as an author of Iowa Birds, or, as an author of two wildflower books with Sylvan Runkel, or, as an author of The Vascular Plants of Iowa, or, as an environmental consultant. The list could go on and on. One thing is for sure, his leadership and drive have left an indelible mark on Iowa's people, their environment, and their institutions.

Dean was born near Lehigh in Webster County on 6 May 1934. He attended a country school two miles from his home until eighth grade. He graduated from high school in Lehigh in 1952, and then attended Ft. Dodge Junior College for two years. He transferred to Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls where he graduated in 1957 with a degree in biology, physical education, and agriculture.

After graduation, he entered the Army and served just under two years. Teachers were in great demand at the time and he was let out of the service early. In 1959, he began teaching junior and senior high school science and physical education at Calamus in Clinton County. He returned to central Iowa and taught at Jolley until the school closed. For the next thirteen years until 1972, he taught high school science and physical education at Goldfield.

During the time he was teaching, he continued with his own education. He attended summer sessions at Lakeside Lab at Lake Okoboji and obtained his Masters Degree from Iowa State Teachers College in 1965. His thesis dealt with homing instinct of birds, particularly the English Sparrow and the American Robin. As could be expected, the nonmigratory English Sparrow had less success returning to its nest than the robin. From his experiments, he found that the robin's homing instinct extended as far as twelve miles.

His interest in this subject was piqued by the capture of a Barn Swallow at the family farm five miles from Lehigh. He went from the farm to town and released the swallow. By the time he returned to the farm, the swallow had already returned.

He returned to Iowa State University in 1972 to continue his work on his Ph.D. in Botany. He specialized in the study of wetland plants and received his Ph.D. in 1975.

He became state ecologist in 1975 and worked with the Iowa State Preserves Board until 1992 when he retired. He married Carol Jacobs in 1991. They live on an acreage ten miles north of Ames near the Skunk River. In 1995, he and his wife purchased Antiques on Main, an antique mall in Ames, which they operate.

Dean grew up on a farm near the Des Moines River directly across from Dolliver State Park. Waterfowl and raptors were common and it was not unusual to hear the call of the Red-shouldered Hawk. He remembers how the chickens would react in fear to the approach of a raptor. Because of the location of the family farm along the river, his outdoor experiences in the woodlands along the river became a part of his nature.

Dean did not become actively interested in birds until he took a course in field biology from Martin Grant. He said 99.5% of the course related to bird study. Martin Grant was also a bird bander and kindled Dean's interest in ornithology, which Dean considered the most exciting thing he had ever done.

He stressed that capturing birds then was very different than it is today. It was not until the advent of Japanese mist nets that banding became the activity that we know today. Myrle Jones, a long-time Conservation Commission employee, served as his mentor and showed Dean how to effectively use the mist nets.

From 1957 until 1965, Dean characterized his banding activity as general in nature. After 1965, he turned his attention to raptors and by 1975 he became particularly adept at capturing migrating hawks by using live birds as bait. He credits Bob Elgin, a falconer, and Jim Fowler of Wild Kingdom fame for his new found interest in raptors.

Currently, Dean, Jon Stravers, and Bruce Ehresman are working on a manuscript on Iowa birds of prey. The University of Iowa Press has tentatively offered to publish this book with a mid-summer shelf date. The authors have recently shifted gears and changed from a scientific format to a personal narrative based on their own experiences. James Landenberger will provide the illustrations for the book.

The late Pete Petersen urged Dean to run for vice president of the IOU for the 1961/1962 year. As was the practice at the time, he



became president for the years 1962/1963–1963/1964. For him, the annual meeting was the highlight of the year and was not to be missed. He thinks, however, that the IOU has changed greatly since then.

People dressed formally, presentations were stiff and scientific, and field trips were not important as they are today. Most of the people who were the leaders at the time — Myrle Jones, Bruce Stiles, Martin Grant, Charles Ayres, and Myrle Burk, to name a few — have long since died. In fact, Dean holds the distinction of being the longest-lived IOU president.

Dean stated that the idea for *Iowa Birds*, which was published in 1984, came from the South Dakota state book published several years earlier. He had met the author at the Wilson Ornithology meeting held in Omaha and discussed with him what was needed to produce a similar book in Iowa. He recruited Darwin Koenig, Jim Dinsmore, Pete Petersen, and Tom Kent as coauthors. Sections of the book were written according to the interests of the authors. Dean stated that he was amazed how easy it seemed for the other authors to complete their sections while he worked so hard to finish his parts.

He stated that the book would never have happened without the long-time banding records of Pete Petersen taken at Pine Hill Cemetery in Davenport. Dean has often thought how beneficial it would be to have a permanent banding station located at an Iowa college or university. It would provide important historical information and would be a teaching aid for blossoming ornithologists.

My wife, Linda, and I first worked with Dean, assisting with the Winter Hawk Survey in February 1978. February was selected as the month for the survey because hawk migration was minimal. A township was selected in a county. The locations of all hawks and raptors were recorded. The following year the same township was censused to see if the raptors returned to the same location. The survey was done for ten years to determine the winter status of raptors in Iowa. The Loess Hills and southern Iowa was found to have the greatest concentrations of raptors.

The term foray has been used to describe an intensive, short-term, team study of a localized area. Dean credits Pete Petersen with planting the seed for the first Iowa Foray that was held in June 1977 in Fremont County. First discussed at an IOU banquet, Jon Stravers, Ross Silcock, and Dean were the initial volunteers with fifteen people eventually participating. Jointly sponsored by the IOU and the Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board, the foray attempted to fill the knowledge gaps in Iowa's natural history. The record of this first foray was published in the December 1977 and March 1978 issues of *Iowa Bird Life*. In succeed-

ing years, the primary focus of the forays diversified and birds were only one of several disciplines that were studied.

As State Ecologist, Dean helped establish the Iowa Natural Area's Inventory, a computer database that was constantly updated with information from succeeding forays. With the establishment of the database, there were no further comprehensive published results of the foray.

With his interest in Iowa's natural areas, Dean has been active in the Iowa Nature Conservancy, serving on the board and becoming a life member.

Sylvan Runkel and Al Bull wrote *Wildflowers of Iowa Woodlands*. A second book on tallgrass prairie wildflowers was planned. Al Bull died unexpectedly and Sylvan asked Dean to help complete *Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie*. A second book, *Wildflowers and Other Plants of Iowa Wetlands*, was published in 1999 after Sylvan's death. Dean stated that the books were tests of his endurance because of the amount of time it took to complete them. He characterized Sylvan as a treasure, a person who had more humanity than any other person he has known.

In addition to his antique business, Dean and his wife work as environmental consultants specializing in the field of botany. They are called to investigate and document the plant life of sensitive sites that might be disturbed by highway construction, business development, and other forms of disruption. In many cases, it involves wetland mitigation and reconstruction. Recently, they did an intensive plant survey of Engeldinger Marsh for the Iowa Department of Transportation. While some people might disagree, Dean thinks that road corridors and prairie roadsides help generate genetic exchange between natural areas. This exchange helps guarantee that these areas will stay healthy.

As a result of this and other work, he believes there is a need for a new book on roadside plants. This book would allow people to step from their car and be able to identify common roadside plants and flowers. He has begun preliminary work on this book but has not set a date for completion.

In a recent article in *The Iowan*, Bill Witt, a friend and contemporary of Dean's, wrote a fitting conclusion to my article with this description of Dean. "It was always Roosa leading. First up in the morning, last to turn in at night, filled with energy, energizing, motivating: go to the wetlands, the forests, prairies. Come on, see what Iowa has to show us."

LITERATURE CITED

Witt, Bill. 1999. Return of prairie. *The Iowan* 47(4):49.
1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@nevia.net)

Effects of Prescribed Burning on Prairie Birds at Mines of Spain, Dubuque, Iowa

Jessica L. Lawent and Larkin A. Powell

ABSTRACT

The effects of prescribed burning of prairies on bird populations were evaluated at Mines of Spain State Recreation Area in Dubuque, Iowa during summer and fall 1999. We correlated bird diversity data with plant diversity data. Four prairie areas were examined, two of which had been burned immediately prior to the study (Sites 35 and 42) and two of which have not been burned since 1995 and 1996 (Sites 36 and 45, respectively). Species richness varied between six and nine, burned sites having slightly higher richnesses than unburned sites. Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) were the most dominant species in three of the four sites. Bird density was highest at a burned site (density = 15.47 birds/hectare [ha]), but was closely followed by an unburned site (density = 10.66 birds/ha). The densities at the other two sites were 4.44 birds/ha in the burned site and 1.22 birds/ha in the unburned site. The highly variable density estimates between all four sites implicate the importance of many replicates in a study such as this. Diversity indices were high, but the range between burned and unburned sites was narrow, 0.73 to 0.80, with both having mean diversities of 0.77. It is unlikely that there is a difference in diversity of birds in the burned and unburned sites ($t = 0.12$, $P = 0.91$). The correlation between plant diversity and bird diversity was 0.67, indicating partial correlation between the factors. Similarity indices between the two burned sites, the two unburned sites, and the burned and unburned sites that were near each other were relatively high, with similarity indices ranging between 0.67 and 0.86. Though correlation suggests that plant and bird diversity is in fact correlated, and the strong similarity between the sites may be a result of the history of burning that Mines of Spain has employed to eradicate invasive species.

INTRODUCTION

Recently there has been much emphasis on habitat conservation. Conservationists have exerted efforts on prairie restoration, especially through the use of fire. To preserve a prairie's natural state, fires are used to regulate plant diversity by eliminating unwanted or foreign plants, which are competitors of native plants. Native prairie restoration and improvement of wildlife habitat are the major reasons for burning grasslands (Higgins et al. 1989).

Burns also have been concentrated in forests and tallgrass prairies for reasons other than songbird conservation. Forest burns benefit forest plants and animals (Mannan et al. 1996, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County 1999) and game bird grassland habitat (Mannan et al. 1996), but little has been done to determine the extent of effects that these burns have on prairie nongame bird populations.

It has been estimated that only approximately 30,000 acres of Iowa's prairies still exist, 0.12% of the original acreage. Concern has been raised by many in response to the disappearance of Iowa's native landscape (Dinsmore 1994, Johnson 1997). Maintenance, including the use of burns, of the small amount of remaining prairie has been a top priority for Iowa conservationists. Fires are usually conducted for one specific purpose (e.g., to kill a specific plant or to provide prime habitat for a specific species), but efforts must be made to examine the results of these burns on nontarget species.

Burns provide excellent nesting or foraging habitat for some birds, but not for all species. For example, birds such as the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*; M. Hunt 1997, Jackson et al. 1986 in Mannan et al. 1991), Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), Bachman's Sparrow (*Vermivora bachmanii*, Meanley 1959 in Mannan et al. 1991), Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*, Probst 1988 in Mannan et al. 1991), Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), and Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*; Meyers 1999) have been found to prefer burned areas. On the other hand, species like the Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*; Horton 1987 in Mannan et al. 1996) cannot thrive in burned areas. In general, birds that favor short, sparse habitat cover have common, widespread populations with positive or neutral population trends (Johnson 1997). If the purpose of a burn is to increase a bird's population, park administrators need to decide if the habitat necessary for one bird should be destroyed to support another.

This study evaluated the general effects of prescribed burns on prairie bird communities. We did not focus on the reaction of

specific species to the burns. The objectives of this study were to (1) compare the bird communities between burned and unburned sites, (2) compare the plant diversity between burned and unburned sites, and (3) correlate bird diversity to plant diversity in burned and unburned sites.

METHODS

Bird and plant evaluations were made at four prairies at Mines of Spain Recreation area from May 1999 through November 1999. Each burned site was paired with a control site in the same area. Site 35 had been burned in the spring of 1999 and its paired control, Site 36, had not been burned since May 1995. Site 42 also was burned in the spring of 1999 and its paired control, Site 45, had not been burned since April 1996. Mines of Spain Recreation Area aggressively burns its prairie areas, and our controls were among the areas with the longest time between burnings.

Two bird survey points were randomly selected in each of the four sites. Point counts began in May 1999. Point counts lasted five minutes during which all birds were identified by sight and call. Some observations were made at dawn and some at dusk, to make sure all types of prairie birds were included. During each observation, variables such as temperature cloud cover, precipitation, average plant height, distance from bird, location of bird, and species were recorded. Birds that flew above the site were not counted.

Mist nets were used at Site 42 in late August-early September, to identify and band birds for later studies. Five nets were lined up for half-hour intervals for approximately two hours in the evening. Close examination of netted birds helped assure the accuracy of the identifications that had been made in the point counts. Birds caught in the mist net were included in the count for Site 42.

Transects were made to measure plant diversity in November. Transects began at one plot in each site. Three directional bearings from each central survey point were randomly selected. Fifteen paces were taken in these three directions, and a 1-meter (m) square quadrat was set at the end of the transect to record the types of plants and percent cover in each quadrat. The proportions for each type of plant in the three quadrats at each site were averaged to obtain the plant diversity for that site.

After data was gathered, a series of analyses were conducted. Abundance, richness, and dominance by species were calculated for each of the four sites. Diversity was calculated for birds and plants at each site, using Simpson's Diversity Index (Smith and Smith 1998:

271). Correlation was calculated between plant and bird diversity using Microsoft Excel. Bird density was calculated with the program DISTANCE (Buckland et al. 1993). We employed the boot strap option to account for small sample sizes during variance estimation. Similarity was calculated using Sorenson's coefficient of similarity (Smith and Smith 1998: 272). We compared the 2 burned sites (35/42), the 2 unburned sites (36/45), and the 2 burned/unburned pairs (35/36, 42/45). We used t-tests in Microsoft Excel to detect differences in diversity, density, and richness between the burned and unburned sites.

RESULTS

A higher number of birds was observed in the burned sites (35 and 42) than in the unburned sites (36 and 45). However, agricultural activities limited our access to Sites 35 and 36, which led to the concentration of efforts on sites 42 and 45. Three of the five observations made at Site 35 and three of the four observations made at Site 36 were made in late May-early June, prior to the growth of the corn. More than half of the observations at sites 42 and 45 were made in late August-late October. The variable times of observations may have influenced the richness (Table 1).

Burned sites had a slightly higher mean species richness, 8 ± 2.77 (SD), than unburned sites, 6.5 ± 1.39 (SD), ($t = 1.34$, $P = 0.41$, Figure 1). The Red-winged Blackbird and the Song Sparrow were the dominant species in the burned sites (dominance as percent of sample in top 2 species: Site 35 = 0.61, Site 42 = 0.42). The Tree Swallow was one of the dominant species in the unburned sites, as well as the Red-winged Blackbird in Site 36 (dominance = 0.64) and the American Goldfinch in Site 45 (dominance = 0.50).

Bird density varied greatly among the sites, regardless of their burn status. Density for the burned sites was 15.70 birds/ha (95% confidence interval [CI] = 7.02 to 34.09) for Site 42 and 4.44 birds/ha (95% CI = 1.99 to 9.93) for Site 35. Density for the unburned sites was 10.66 birds/ha (95% CI = 10.66 to 10.66) for Site 45 and 1.22 birds/ha (CI = 1.07 to 1.38) for grassland Site 36. There was no difference in the average density of burned and unburned sites ($t = 0.55$, $P = 0.64$, Figure 2).

Bird diversity indices were similar for all four sites, although Site 45 was the highest at 0.80. Diversity for Site 35 was 0.75, 0.79 for Site 42, and 0.73 for Site 36. There was no difference between average bird diversities of burned and unburned sites (Figure 3).

Plant diversity, on the other hand, varied a bit more. Site 35 had a diversity of 0.67, 0.40 for Site 36, 0.53 for Site 42, and 0.84 for Site 45. The correlation between plant diversity and bird diversity was 0.67 (Figure 4). Similarity comparisons of the bird community structure were made between burned sites, unburned sites, and paired burned/unburned sites to detect any area effects. Sites 42 and 45 were most similar to each other. However, all other sites showed high similarity as well (Table 2).

CONCLUSIONS

There were no significant differences between bird diversity in burned and unburned sites. It was visibly apparent during the study that the burned sites had sunflowers, but the unburned sites lacked this vegetation. Also, the burned sites appeared to have a much more dense vegetational cover than the unburned sites. Although the burns seemed to change some of the vegetation, the difference in plant diversity between the sites did not affect the bird diversity.

Each burned site was paired with an unburned site in the same general area to prevent area effects. Though there were not any obvious area effects, it was beneficial to have replicates. Site 36 had obvious vegetational differences, containing mostly grasses, from Site 45, the other unburned site. It is apparent from the density estimates that there can be great differences from one control to the next. It was beneficial to have replicates to prevent unwise or biased conclusions.

It also was beneficial to have two separate study areas because access to one area was cut off half way through the data collection. Due to the lack of access to two of the study sites between August and October, there was not equal effort given at the same times for each site. This jeopardized the chance to observe many birds that may prefer recently burned areas because two of the sites could not be monitored throughout the study duration. Birds that were observed at sites 35 and 36 during the early summer account for most of the data for those sites. If those sites could have been constantly monitored, other species may have been observed.

Of the species that were observed, some may not be very relevant to the effects of burns. Tree Swallows may have only been observed because there were some nesting boxes scattered throughout the prairies. Red-winged Blackbirds are highly adaptable (Johnson 1997) and may occupy any area, burned or unburned. The one Brown-headed Cowbird and two Blue Jays were spotted on the forest/prairie ecotone, thus may not have been utilizing the prairies.

All four sites were situated in such ways that at least three of their sides were surrounded by forests. Forest edges may have influenced what types of birds were present in the prairies. The prairies were not particularly large. The entire Mine of Spain area is only 1,400 acres compared to larger prairies like Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, on which over 8,000 acres of prairie is being reestablished (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1996). The presence of predators around a small area may have induced pressure for prairie birds to relocate, especially in the burned areas, where sparse vegetational cover would make the birds even more visible to predators. The fact that birds may be more vulnerable in these small prairies may have limited the number of birds that would normally be seen in this area when postburn conditions exist.

The sites were unexpectedly manipulated in ways other than burning during the study, which made conclusions difficult. Site 35 was sprayed with a weed killer in early summer, making the vegetation sparse and patchy. Part of Sites 42 and 45 were mowed during late summer or early fall. These forms of conservation alone, which obviously affected the plant growth, could have affected the bird diversity. Any differences that were detected can not be solely attributed to the burns.

There was no preburn data for any of the sites. It would have been useful to compare preburn with postburn data for each of the sites to narrow in on the chance of effects from burns. This data also would have helped indicate if there were area effects. If the study lasted a series of years, diversity could have been correlated with succession after the burns.

This study provides results that may indicate a positive impact of burning on the songbird population at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area. Every area must be treated separately, as bird community structure may vary across prairie areas. A burn may be useful for one prairie, providing suitable habitat for the majority of birds, but a burn at another prairie may harm a rare bird that inhabits the area. The program of burning at Mines of Spain Recreation Area appears to be creating suitable grassland bird habitats that are very similar to each other.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Dr. Robert Miller, professor of biology at the University of Dubuque, for assistance with plant identification and to Mr. Wayne Buchholtz, Mines of Spain Director, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for graciously providing the study site.

REFERENCES

- Bailey, J. A. 1984. *Principles of Wildlife Management*. Pp. 229–234. John Wiley and Sons, New York.
- Buckland, S. T., D. R. Anderson, K. P. Burnham, and J. L. Laake. 1993. *Distance Sampling: Estimating Abundance of Biological Populations*. Chapman and Hall, London.
- Dinsmore, J. J. 1994. *A Country So Full of Game: The Story of Wildlife in Iowa*. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City.
- Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. 1999. *Controlled Burning Program*. <http://www.dupageforest.com/CONSERVATION/burning.html>
- Higgins, K. F., A. D. Kruse, and J. L. Piehl. 1989. *Prescribed Burning Guidelines in the Northern Great Plains*. Northern Prairie Publication 0732. U.S. Department of Agriculture EC 760. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cooperative Extension Service, South Dakota State University, Brookings.
- Hunt, M. 1997. Students start fires for nature. *The O'Colly* (March 4, 1997). Oklahoma State University. Source: http://webster.jb.okstate.edu/issues/1997_Spring/970304/stories/fire/html
- Johnson, D. H. 1997. Effects of fire on bird populations in mixed-grass prairie. Pp. 181–206. In F. L. Knopf and F. B. Samson (Eds.). *Ecology and Conservation of Great Plains Vertebrates*. Springer, New York.
- Mannan, W. R., R. N. Conner, B. Marcot, and J. M. Peek. 1996. Managing forestlands for wildlife. Pp. 689–721. In T. A. Bookhout (Ed.). *Research and Management Techniques for Wildlife and Habitats*. The Wildlife Society, Bethesda, Maryland.
- Myers, R. 1999. *The Nature Conservancy Fire Management and Research Program*. *RxFire and the Sandhill Crane*. Source: <http://www.tncfire.org/vol7no2.htm#cuba>
- Robbins, R. S., B. Bruun, and H. S. Zim. 1983. *A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America*. Golden Books, New York.
- Smith, R. L. and T. M. Smith. 1998. *Elements of Ecology*. 4th ed. Benjamin/Cummings, San Francisco, California.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1996. *Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge*. Source: <http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/walnut>

Department of Biology, University of Dubuque, 2000 University Avenue,
Dubuque, IA 52001 (LPowell@dbq.edu)

Table 1. Abundance of bird species at four study sites at Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, Dubuque, Iowa during summer and fall 1999

Species	Site 35	Site 36	Site 42	Site 45
Red-winged Blackbird, <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	18	5	28	4
Song Sparrow, <i>Melospiza melodia</i>	7	1	14	4
American Tree Sparrow, <i>Spizella arborea</i>	3	1	5	4
Field Sparrow, <i>Spizella pusilla</i>	1	0	0	0
Grasshopper Sparrow, <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	1	0	0	0
Tree Swallow, <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	4	2	6	5
American Goldfinch, <i>Carduelis tristis</i>	0	0	5	12
Common Yellowthroat, <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	1	0	4	0
Indigo Bunting, <i>Passerina cyanea</i>	2	1	5	1
Baltimore Oriole, <i>Icterus galbula</i>	0	1	0	0
Blue Jay, <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	2	0	0	0
Brown-headed Cowbird, <i>Molothrus ater</i>	0	0	0	1
Unknown ^a	2	0	32	3
Abundance	41	11	99	34
Species Richness	9	6	7	7

^aIncluded in abundance calculations, but not in species richness.

Table 2. Similarity index estimates for bird species between prairie study sites at Mines of Spain Recreation Area, Dubuque, Iowa, during summer and fall 1999

Study site	Study site			
	35	36	42	45
35		0.67	0.75	
36	0.67			0.77
42	0.75			0.86
45		0.77	0.86	

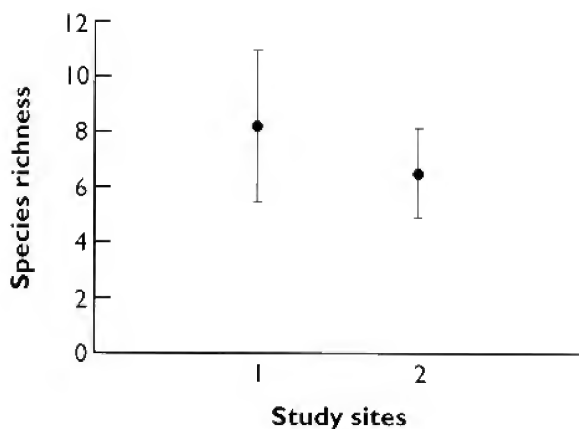


Figure 1. Mean bird species richness among study sites at Mines of Spain Recreation Area, Dubuque, Iowa during summer/fall 1999. Burned sites are indicated with a 1 and unburned sites are indicated with a 2.

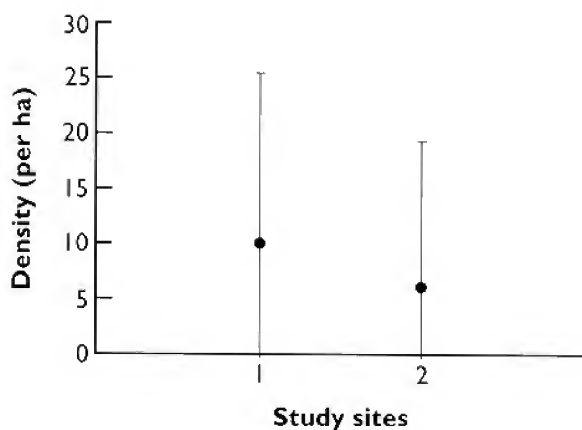


Figure 2. Mean bird density (birds/hectare [ha]) among study sites at Mines of Spain Recreation Area, Dubuque, Iowa during summer/fall 1999. Burned sites are indicated with a 1 and unburned sites are indicated with a 2.

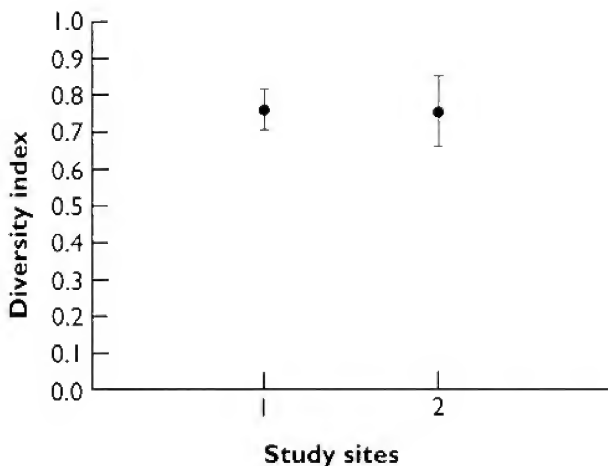


Figure 3. Mean bird diversity index estimates among study sites at Mines of Spain Recreation Area, Dubuque, Iowa during summer/fall 1999. Burned sites are indicated with a 1 and unburned sites are indicated with a 2.

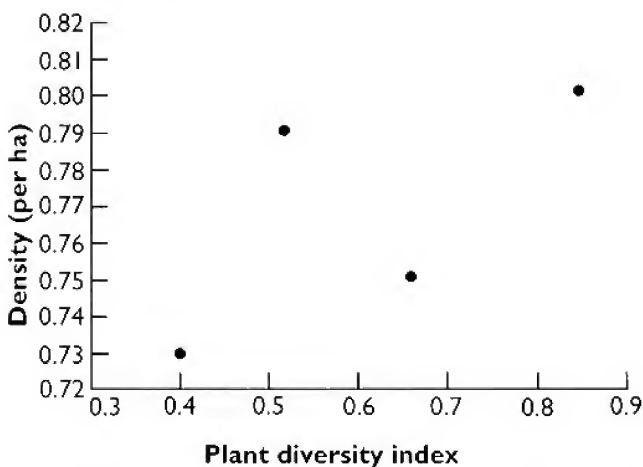


Figure 4. Correlation between bird and plant diversity indices on four study plots at Mines of Spain Recreation Area, Dubuque, Iowa during summer/fall 1999.

1999 Spring Bird Count

Ann Barker

The 1999 Spring Bird Count was held on 8 May. A total of 28 counties participated (Table 1), up 4 from 1998 (Barker 1999). Counties new to the count in 1999 were Hamilton, Harrison, Iowa, Pottawattamie, Shelby, and Tama. The counties of Black Hawk, Buchanan, Butler, and Fremont did not participate, although they had done so in previous years. Reappearing after a missed year were Jefferson and Warren counties.

Twelve counties reported 100 or more species (Table 1). Louisa again led the way with 164, bettering last year's count by 1 species. Clay County had 143 for second; Boone, 142 for third; and Clinton, 140 for fourth. Appanoose and Story counties were fifth and sixth, with 136 and 132 species, respectively. The average number for all counties was 88, up 2.5 species from 1998, despite the relatively early count date.

Once again, the strongest geographical coverage was from east-central Iowa, with 8 counties represented. Central Iowa had 6 counties participating, an increase of two over 1998. Other sections of the state and their coverage were northeastern, 2; southeastern, 4; south central, 2; northwestern, 1; western, 2; and southwestern, 3. No counties from north-central Iowa participated.

The species total was 231, up 9 from 1998, but down 3 from 1997, and not remotely approaching the 1996 total of 244. There were 144 participants, up sharply from the meager 110 in 1998, and an increase of 10 over the 1997 total. Appanoose County had the most observers with 18, and Bremer was close behind with 15.

Only one species, the Red-winged Blackbird, was found in all 28 counties (Table 2). This may be due to fairly limited coverage in a few counties. Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Barn Swallow, American Robin, and House Sparrow were found in 27 of the 28 counties. Common Grackle was found in 26 counties, and Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Eurasian Starling, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, and Baltimore Oriole were found in 25.



Steadily increasing participation in the Iowa Spring Count will improve the reliability of the data as an indicator of the distribution and abundance of species in Iowa during the peak spring migration period. Wider coverage is highly desirable, and it is hoped that birders throughout the state will continue to contribute their efforts, as well as encouraging others to do so, so that the entire state might be covered.

Barker, A. 1999. Spring Bird Count — 1998. *Iowa Bird Life* 69:21–29.

3204 Crestline Drive, Davenport, IA 52803 (AnnBarker4@aol.com)

Table 1. Count statistics for the Iowa Spring Bird Count, May 1999

County	Number of			Hours				Miles		
	Species	Obs.	Parties	Foot	Car	Feeder	Owling	Foot	Car	Owling
Allamakee	97	2	1	1.5	4.75	0.25	1.5	1.5	78	15
Appanoose	136	18	7	11	18	2	0.5	12	260	0
Benton	63	5	2	4	4	NA ^a	NA	2	85	NA
Boone	142	12	5	24	14	5	0	9	236	0
Bremer	106	15	4	7	2	NA	0.5	10	85	NA
Clay	143	2	1	4	7.5	0	1	3	148	0
Clinton	140	4	3	8.5	21	0	6.75	8	215	100
Dallas	75	1	1	3	9	0	0.5	NA	NA	1
Des Moines	82	2	1	8	2	0	NA	3	40	NA
Hamilton	28	10	4	NA	4	NA	NA	NA	46	NA
Harrison	12	1	1	NA	1	NA	NA	NA	14	NA
Iowa	74	2	1	4.75	2	0	0	1.5	54	0
Jackson	114	4	3	4	11.5	0	0.25	6.5	270	1
Jefferson	94	6	3	13	2	0.5	NA	55	51	NA
Johnson	121	11	8	22	13	4	1.5	10	240	10
Linn	108	5	3	12	7.5	5	NA	13	165	NA
Louisa	164	2	1	5.5	9.25	0	1	4.25	303	7.25
Mills	36	5	3	1.5	1.5	4	NA	NA	NA	NA
Muscatine	78	3	1	3	5.5	NA	NA	2	67	NA
Page	70	1	1	3	9	0	0	3	79	0
Polk	115	2	1	6.25	6.25	NA	0	4	106	0
Pottawattami	20	6	2	0.5	1.5	NA	NA	0.5	34	NA
Scott	117	5	4	13	9	1	0	10	170	0
Shelby	18	5	2	NA	1	4	NA	NA	15	NA
Story	132	10	6	29	15	NA	1.5	13	165	NA
Tama	28	2	1	0	2.5	0	0	0	89	0
Warren	73	1	1	1.25	8.75	0	0	1	87	0
Washington	79	2	1	2	10	0	0	2	163	0
TOTALS	237	144	72	191.75	202.5	25.75	15	174.25	3265	134.25
AVERAGE	88	5.1	2.6	6.8	7.2	0.9	0.5	6.2	116.6	4.8

^aNA = Not available.

Table 2a. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

	Pa Lo	Co Lo	Pi Bi Gr	Ho Gr	We Gr	Am Wh Pe	Do Cr Co	Am Bi	Gr He	Gr Eg	Sn Eg	Ca Eg	Gr He	Bl Cr NH	Tu Vu	Gr WF Go	Sn Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Wo Du
Allamakee			3				4		19	5		1	3		15			34		5
Appanoose			2		29		194		8	3			1		56		1	82		13
Benton							17		3						5			19		4
Boone			11				290	1	5	1		4			15		1	61		3
Bremer			3				6		10				1		22			207		10
Clay		1	5				27	1	4	2			2		26	47	6	257		10
Clinton			8				312	3	21	29			1	1	14			125		33
Dallas							5		2	3					2			37		2
Des Moines							19		13				1		9			14		27
Hamilton			8															39		
Harrison																		2		
Iowa			11						2						3			20		7
Jackson			4				19		37	5					37			88		46
Jefferson		1							2						4			36		2
Johnson			3		260		150		11				3		23	1	5	53		19
Linn			4						3				1		18			40		12
Louisa			19		65		35	2	68	19		21	12	9	52			221	3	105
Mills																		2		
Muscatine									14						6			6		4
Page			1	4			133		3						9			127		
Polk			4				54		11				1		8			49		13
Pottawattami																		5		
Scott			1				3		16	2			4		10			62		19
Shelby																		12		
Story	1	1					7		5		1	1	1		7		2	34		15
Tama																				
Warren									7						21		1	39		2
Washington							7		9						18			63		6
No. Indiv.	1	3	77	4	1	510	1282	7	273	69	1	27	31	10	380	48	16	1734	3	357
No. Counties	1	3	15	1	1	7	17	4	22	9	1	4	12	2	22	2	6	27	1	21

Table 2b. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

	Am		BI		Gr			Ri			Le			Ho			Co			Re			Ru			Os			Mi			Ba			Sh			Sh
	Ga	Wi	Ma	Te	Wi	No	Pi	Te	Re	Ne	Du	Sc	Bu	Me	Me	Me	Me	Br	Me	Du	Du	Du	Du	Ki	Ea	No	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha								
Allamakee	3	2	3	2																																		
Appanoose			14	27																																		
Benton			2	2																																		
Boone	2		18	68				3		5		4																										
Bremer	4		26	30			2	2				9																										
Clay	15	2	72	57			9	2	20			21	4																									
Clinton	27	9	70	39			8	10	2			2																										
Dallas			3	9			1																															
Des Moines			5	10			1																															
Hamilton			6	18			1	2		2																												
Harrison																																						
Iowa	8		1	2			3					1																										
Jackson			44	10				13																														
Jefferson				5																																		
Johnson	2		22	39								8																										
Linn			19	6			1																															
Louisa	16	3	246	2			29																															
Mills																																						
Muscatine			1																																			
Page																																						
Polk	5		25	32			23					4																										
Pottawattami																																						
Scott			57	18								8																										
Shelby																																						
Story	2		31	35			7																															
Tama				2																																		
Warren			14	7																																		
Washington			1	17	10		12			2																												
No. Indiv.	84	17	696	430			113	6	34	22		8	59	5	26	9				12	14	8	1	17	13	4												
No. Counties	10	5	21	22			12	3	7	2		3	9	2	5	1				5	7	6	1	6	5	4												

Table 2c. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

	CoAccip Ha Sp	Re Sh Ha	Br Wi Ha	Sw Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	Am Ke	Pe Fa	Gr Pa	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo	Vi Ra	Co Mo	Am Co	Sa Cr	Am Go Pl	Se Pl		
Allamakee		1			2	1	3	1		3	2		2	5	1	1				
Appanoose					9		7			15	59	1		3	116					
Benton					1		1			6					7					
Boone			1		6		8	1	2	18	10		1	7	85		18			
Bremer	1	1	2	3	9		2			8	1			15	10	2				
Clay			1		15		3	3	3	15	2			15	82					
Clinton	3				12		5	1		34		7	10	22	174	3				
Dallas		1			2		1			23				1	1					
Des Moines					2		3				7			5	2					
Hamilton	2									1					45					
Harrison																				
Iowa	1				2					1					20					
Jackson	1	1			7		8			5	15		7		20	2				
Jefferson			1		3		3			4			1							
Johnson		1	7		5		3			10	4		10		96					
Linn	1				10		2	1			23	1	2		2					
Louisa	3				38		22			41	85	5	3	18	2	255	43	1		
Mills																				
Muscatine			2		2		1				1									
Page					4		1			3		1								
Polk					6		5			5			4		15					
Pottawattami					1					2										
Scott	1	3			9		5			4	1		2		45					
Shelby					3															
Story	1				3		7		2	17			6		24	2				
Tama					4		1			2						1				
Warren					3		2			7					35					
Washington	1				7		3			14					6					
No. Indiv.	14	7	3	14	3	165	1	96	7	7	238	210	15	16	123	3	1041	61	1	
No. Counties	10	4	3	6	1	25	1	22	5	3	22	12	5	4	16	2	20	6	2	1

Table 2d. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

	Ki		Gr		Le	So	Wi	Sp		Up	Hu	Ma	Sa		Se	Le	Ba	Pe	Du		St	Sh		Lo	Bi		Dow	Co	Sn
	Ye	Ye	Ye	Ye	Ye	Sa	Sa		Sa	Sa	Go	Go	Sa	Sa	Sa	Sa	Sa	Sa	Sa	Sa	Sa	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Sp		
Allamakee	2		7					7									12		2										4
Appanoose	40	11	8		1			17								4													
Benton	1																												
Boone	19	1	46				1	8							1	21	1	5	5	1	2				5				
Bremer	16	4	20				1	8								2		14											1
Clay	26		17		2			10			5		1		3	2		9		6				3		4			
Clinton	25	6	15				13	1								1		1					2						3
Dallas	21	3			2																								
Des Moines	2	2																											
Hamilton	5		1					1																					
Harrison																													
Iowa	1		1		2		2	1								6													
Jackson	7							3										1											
Jefferson	6	1	1		1		1	1																				1	
Johnson	11				3			5										11					1					3	
Linn	3																												
Louisa	63		54		21			29							87	55	11	22	2										3
Mills	2																												
Muscatine	3							1																					
Page	3																												
Polk	13		15					4				2				14		12			3								
Pottawattami	1																												
Scott	19		6		6			2								10							1					1	
Shelby																													
Story	24	1	7		2			5										6											4
Tama																													
Warren	17	7																											
Washington	7		3					4								8							2						
No. Indiv.	337	36	201	41	17	100	7	5	2	1	91	123	24	81	15	6	8	8	4	20									
No. Counties	24	9	14	10	4	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	10	3	9	4	5	2	1	8								

Table 2e. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

	Am Wo	Wi Ph	Fr Gu	Bo Gu	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Gull sp.	Ca Te	Co Te	Fo Te	Ster- na sp.	Bl Te	Ro Do	Mo Do	Ye Bi Cu	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Co Ni	Ch Wi Wi
Allamakee	1				1	63	3	86	6	30	5	4	8	5				5		
Appanoose			1	15									18	104	1			6	1	
Benton													2	5				1		
Boone		1	39		1					3		3	7	20				3		
Bremer		1											20	15					1	
Clay			377		11					23		5	17	69		2	1	1	1	
Clinton	12		4	9	52	2	2		1	15		20	61	71		2	8	14		
Dallas													14	55			1			
Des Moines														6				2		
Hamilton																				
Harrison										3	1		3	11						
Iowa													1	4						
Jackson					2		30				4		9	129		2	1	2		
Jefferson													2	14		1	4	1		
Johnson	3				9			4				2	13	22		1	1	3	1	
Linn					2								95	28		2	6			
Louisa	6				3				4	2		8	305	425	2	3	11	25	5	2
Mills										2			4	9						
Muscatine												10	12	10						
Page			6		3								42			1		3		
Polk		1	20		15			6					16	19			4			
Pottawattami													3	5						
Scott					3	2							75	41	1	1	1	5	3	
Shelby													14							
Story					1						19		116	73	1	1	4			
Tama																				
Warren					2								32	41				1		
Washington													32	33						
No. Indiv.	22	4	447	24	168	7	30	98	11	78	10	71	865	1273	5	9	30	85	18	2
No. Counties	4	4	6	2	14	3	1	4	3	7	3	8	23	27	4	5	11	16	9	1

Table 2f. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

[illegible]

Table 2g. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

	Ea			Wh			Bl			Ye			Ph			Re			Am			Ho			Pu			Tr			No			Swal-			Bl		
	Ki	Lo	Sh	Vi	Ey	Be	He	Vi	Th	Vi	Wa	Vi	Vi	Vi	Ey	Ja	Cr	La	Ma	Sw	RW	Ban	Sw	Sw	Cl	Bar	Sw	Sw	low	Sp.	Ca	Ch							
Allamakee	4				3	3									4	16			25	3	100				100	100					1								
Appanoose	60	1			5	5	1							20	88	54			19	186	21	25		91	382			5		21									
Benton	1					2	1								9	6				8	16				28					1									
Boone	15						1				1				29	31			1	222	7	1		48	86					30									
Bremer	6														1	17	38			84	35			23	109					9									
Clay	9	1					9				2				4	25	37	4	2	289	3	30		21	108					22									
Clinton	4				3	15					1			5	30	98		7	2	102	74	48		15	327					31									
Dallas	5	1			6	4	6				9				7	29			15	35	12		34	85					7										
Des Moines	2				2	2					1			2	9	13				7	15	8		2	18			50		11									
Hamilton																		1		4	6			29	8														
Harrison															2	1																							
Iowa	2				3	2	1								3	13	12	2	48	233	5	10	30	1	18					2									
Jackson	3										5				1	27	6	2		6	1			3	51					16									
Jefferson	3				5	11								1	55	77		3	1	250	20	56		60	200			3		49									
Johnson	15				4	8								2	33	46				35	5	14		154	37				51										
Linn	11				2	5	1							11	65	210	57		62	207	115	29		325	42				77										
Louisa	31	1		5	12	24									14			2											15										
Mills	1																																						
Muscatine											3			2	16	6	3			17	10			12	19					14									
Page	11	1									1	9			75	9			5	30	4			43	250					9									
Polk	2	1			2	2	2							1	19	49	4		35	197	13	3		36	67					29									
Pottawattami															3				2																				
Scott	2				3	13								7	27	60	9		40	60	60			2	73					28									
Shelby															5				1																				
Story	13						11				2				54	87			16	27	36	33		24	97					59									
Tama	1														1	1				1	1	1																	
Warren	9	1									7				19	16	1			9				24	33					6									
Washington	5										2				24	23				148	5				91														
No. Indiv.	215	7	5	11	36	47	132	4	62	673	926	95	274	1693	574	278	1004	2068	308	510																			
No. Counties	23	7	1	3	10	13	21	3	13	27	24	12	15	24	23	12	19	27	4	23																			

Table 2h. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Ca Wr	Be Wr	Ho Wr	Wi Wr	Se Wr	Ma Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ru Cr Ki	Bl Gr Gn	Ea Bl	Ve	Gr Ch Th	Sw Th	He Th	Wo Th	Am Ro
Allamakee	1		1			8							2					3	10
Appanoose	17		14			62		1			2		38			2		8	158
Benton	1		3			4					3		2				1		17
Boone	8		11			32	1		4		2		17			2		1	123
Bremer			2			6							8						25
Clay			5			41		1	8		14		11			2		4	119
Clinton	15		11			42	1				1		14					6	196
Dallas						21					2		5						85
Des Moines	5		5			4							2				1	2	26
Hamilton																			
Harrison																			
Iowa	2		2			7										1		1	5
Jackson	7	1	4			6										1		7	3
Jefferson	10		7		2	14		3	2				9			2	1	5	93
Johnson	13		7		2	56		1					8			2			69
Linn	26		22	1	4	44					6		11						53
Louisa	48		39	7	5	95		12	21		210		61			17	3	13	450
Mills	6		6			4							5						9
Muscatine																			
Page	5		4			10					1		6			5		1	24
Polk	4		12	1		63				3								2	300
Pottawattami						33	2			5			5			7		8	64
Scott	14		9			60			1		3		6			5		2	4
Shelby						3													68
Story	5		15			63		1	1	1	19		9			11		4	28
Tama																			262
Warren	4		3			43													10
Washington	7		6			6					2		8			2			43
													7						67
No. Indiv.	198	1	189	11	16	2	727	4	19	39	1	275	186	235	16	36	59	6	68
No. Counties	19	1	22	4	7	1	24	3	6	8	1	16	20	20	4	6	13	4	16
																			27

Table 2i. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

	Gr	No	Br	Eu	Am	Ce	Bl	Go	Te	Or	Na	No	Ye	Ch	Ma	Ca	Ye	BT	Bl	Ye	Th
	Ca	Mo	Th	St	Pi	Wa	Wi	Wa	Wa	Cr	Wa	Pa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Ru	Gr	Wa	Wa	Wa
Allamakee	3		1	100					4				3				5				1
Appanoose	22	2	33	86		1			50		6	4	9	1			29	7		8	
Benton	10		1	7					1		2						5				
Boone	10	1	12	107			1	1	10		6		2	1	1		26				1
Bremer	13		6	40					1		2	2	1		1	1		2			
Clay	10	18	87		47				2	6	3		7	2			34				
Clinton	35	11	215				1		10		1	3	19	2	1	1	73	4			
Dallas	8		8	25									1				12				
Des Moines	2		2	14					10	1	1		1		2		3	1			3
Hamilton																					
Harrison			3																		
Iowa	8		1	15					2		2		3				3	1			
Jackson	7		8	27								3	3		1		10	2			
Jefferson	10		14	69				1	5		7	2					14				2
Johnson	52	1	14	408		12	1		7		3		8		1		30	7	1		2
Linn	26		11	408		10	2	1	14	1	5	3	10				7	4	2		
Louisa	60	6	47	1200		18	3		51		190	22	55	11	35		345	8	10		
Mills	2		6																		
Muscatine	3			16					2		6	3	2		1		2	1			
Page	15		11	54									4				2				
Polk	12		5	66					12	15	6	3	8		1		45	2	1		
Pottawattami																					
Scott	39		20	134					24	2	3	1	10	1	1		22	3	1		
Shelby	2																				
Story	25	22	28	233		22		2	11	7	54	5		1			90				
Tama				13																	
Warren	9		5	49				1	13		3	1	4				12				
Washington	8		3	46							1	1	1				13		1		
No. Indiv.	391	10	254	3036	47	63	8	6	229	39	301	53	148	20	43	3	783	42	24	9	
No. Counties	24	4	22	25	1	5	5	5	18	10	18	13	18	8	8	3	22	12	7	5	

Table 2j. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

	Pi		Pr		Pa		Ba		Bl		Bl		Ce		Wh		Am		Pro		Wo		Ov		No		Lo		Ke		Co		Co		Ye		Ho		Wi		Su		Sc				
	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Br	Br	Po	Wa	Po	Wa	Po	Wa	Wa	Wa	Re	Am	Re	Wa	Wa	Ea	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Co	Ye	Co	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Wa	Ta	Ta	Ta	Ta				
Allamakee																																															
Appanoose																																															
Benton																																															
Boone																																															
Bremer																																															
Clay																																															
Clinton																																															
Dallas																																															
Des Moines																																															
Hamilton																																															
Harrison																																															
Iowa																																															
Jackson																																															
Jefferson																																															
Johnson																																															
Linn																																															
Louisa																																															
Mills																																															
Muscatine																																															
Page																																															
Polk																																															
Pottawattami																																															
Scott																																															
Shelby																																															
Story																																															
Tama																																															
Warren																																															
Washington																																															
No. Indiv.	1	1	1	1	232	1	1	1	36	12	38	168	58	1	44	48	23	12	1	342	4	11	7	36																							
No. Counties	1	1	1	1	17	1	1	1	10	4	12	14	8	1	14	16	6	6	1	22	4	7	4	8																							

Table 2k. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

	Sp To	Ea To	Ch Sp	Cl		Co Sp	Fi Sp	Ve Sp	La Sp	Sa Sp	Gr Sp	So Sp	Li Sp	Sw Sp	Wh		Th Sp	Ha Sp	Wh		Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju	No Ca	Ro Br Gr	In Br	Di
Allamakee	1	13					1	1				8		2	3							3	12	3		
Appanoose		85				1	30		1	2	7	46		11	4			4	70			77	29	10	9	
Benton	1	4										5			14			3				11	6	2		
Boone	2	25					9	5		19		10	3	3	9			5	22			19	15	9		
Bremer	2	13					7			14	3	15	1	10	16				10			17	13			
Clay	1	115				5	15	36		26	6	18	5	17	26			34	13			7	7			
Clinton	6	58					10	2	1	16	6	25		17	14				1			88	17	19		
Dallas	6	13				2	3					17		2								19	9	2		
Des Moines	1	6						1				6						2				9	2	4		
Hamilton		2										1						2								
Harrison																										
Iowa			1									1			4				7							
Jackson	16	11					8			2		30		2	1			9	4			1	12	1		
Jefferson	1	9					10				3	8		2	6			6				28	5	5		
Johnson	3	29					9		1	3	1	17			24			9				59	5	11	2	
Linn	14	17					22	2		2	2	20	2	1	22			4				77	18	26	9	
Louisa	44	185					88	18	66	37	69	128	28	22	213				88			376	53	3	27	
Mills	1	4																11	4			14	1			
Muscatine	1	4					3	1				3										12	1	3	1	
Page	4	4					2					18			4				1			22	9	3	9	
Polk	1	39				6	7	3		10	3	15			12			4	8			33	14	15	1	
Pottawattami			1																			1				
Scott	5	35					6				2	20		1	9				2			58	15	24	2	
Shelby																						2				
Story	3	73				22	8	22	3	4	1	33	6	4	20			2	14			96	23	7	1	
Tama																										
Warren			32				2	1		1		8			3							16	2	5		
Washington	1	12				1	1	1		1		6			3				3			21	9	4	3	
No. Individ.	1	113	790	37	241	93	72	137	103	458	45	94	407	60	278	4	1082	305	166	64						
No. Counties	1	19	25	6	19	12	5	13	11	23	6	13	19	6	20	1	25	23	20	10						

Table 21. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 1999

	Re		Wi	Ea		We	M ⁺ lark sp	Ye		Ru		Gr		Br		Or		Ba		Ho		Pi		Am		Ho		Eu				
	Bo	Bl		Me	Me			Bl	He	Co	Gr	Ta	He	Co	Or	Or	Or	Fi	Fi	Si	Go	Sp	Tr	Sp								
Allamakee	2	30	1				1			3			3		2	11				2				3		5						
Appanoose	6	338	63		3		28			334			142		4	27				13				54		43						
Benton		40	4							47			1		1	8				1				9		5						
Boone	4	1211	4		14		36			63		3	101		2	17				7				99		143						
Bremer	1	73	8		3		9			31			20			14				4				10		40						
Clay	10	491	1		22		57			234		8	72		2					17				36		32						
Clinton	9	1252	46				25			325			43		2	49				20				99		228						
Dallas		195	5		7		1			49			7		1	17				10				28		31						
Des Moines	1	88	1				16			41			19			9								12		20						
Hamilton		20	1																													
Harrison		7			3					22																						
Iowa		6											2		9											3						
Jackson	15	2579	19				6	4		21			18		17					8				47		16						
Jefferson	1	128	21							26			41		1	14				8				31		4						
Johnson	5	300	2		2		9			48			38		1	22				13				85		51						
Linn		142	12				2			17			38			28				13				66		144						
Louisa	55	2100	350		72		61			12 2650			1700		11	52				31				253		1800						56
Mills		34								13										6				11		5						
Muscatine		24	6							22			12		14					1				150		36						
Page	3	1040			158					115			19		2	40				3				12		28						
Polk		171	1		8		3			107			10			12				6				42		54						
Pottawattami		78			2					26					1					9						37						
Scott	6	221	14				4	1		89			34			31				13				42		130						
Shelby		9								2						1				10				6		2						
Story	10	497	3		16		12			428			55			22				27				60		235						
Tama		102					3	1		50																16						
Warren	2	87	9		13					36		3	15		8					23				86		59						
Washington	1	435					31			79			2		11					2				16		49						
No. Indiv.	131	11698	571	323			81	230	12 4878		14	2392	27	437	247	2	1263	3218	56													
No. Counties	16	28	20	13			6	15	1	26	3	22	10	25	23	2	24	27	1													

Table 3. Species reported on only one or two Iowa Spring Bird Counts, May 1999

Pacific Loon	Story (1)
Horned Grebe	Page (4)
Western Grebe	Clay (1)
Snowy Egret	Story (1)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Clinton (1), Louisa (9)
Greater White-fronted Goose	Clay (47), Johnson (1)
Trumpeter Swan	Louisa (3)
Redhead	Clay (20), Clinton (2)
Bufflehead	Bremer (1), Clay (4)
Common Merganser	Jackson (9)
Mississippi Kite	Johnson (1)
Swainson's Hawk	Bremer (3)
Rough-legged Hawk	Allamakee (1)
Common Moorhen	Boone (1), Louisa (2)
American Golden-Plover	Boone (18), Louisa (43)
Semi-palmated Plover	Louisa (1)
Upland Sandpiper	Appanoose (7)
Hudsonian Godwit	Clay (5)
Marbled Godwit	Polk (2)
Sanderling	Clay (1)
Long-billed Dowitcher	Boone (5), Clay (3)
Bonaparte's Gull	Appanoose (15), Clinton (9)
Chuck-will's Widow	Louisa (2)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Story (1)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Appanoose (1)
Acadian Flycatcher	Louisa (4)
White-eyed Vireo	Louisa (5)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Jackson (1)
Bewick's Wren	Jefferson (2)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Story (1)
American Pipit	Clay (47)
Pine Warbler	Linn (1)
Prairie Warbler	Story (1)
Bay-breasted Warbler	Story (1)
Worm-eating Warbler	Boone (1)
Connecticut Warbler	Bremer (1)
Spotted Towhee	Benton (1)
Dark-eyed Junco	Jackson (4)
Rusty Blackbird	Louisa (12)
Pine Siskin	Iowa (1), Story (1)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Louisa (56)

Table 4. Compilers for Iowa Spring Bird Counts, May 1999

County	Compiler	Address
Allamakee	Fred Leshner	LaCrosse, Wisconsin
Appanoose	William G. Cummings	Centerville
Benton	Randy Scheiner	Vinton
Bremer	Jill Feldkamp	Waverly
Boone	Karl Jungbluth	Boone
Clay	Lee A. Schoenewe	Spencer
Clinton	Kelly McKay	Hampton, Illinois
Dallas	Maridel Jackson	Ankeny
Des Moines	Bill Ohde	Columbus Junction
Hamilton	Karl Jungbluth	Boone
Harrison	Josh Obrecht	Minden
Iowa	Mark Proescholdt	Liscomb
Jackson	Ulf Konig	Maquoketa
Jefferson	Dave Killman	Fairfield
Johnson	Chris Caster	Coralville
Linn	Dale Fye	Cedar Rapids
Louisa	Corey T. Blevins	Davenport
Mills	B. June Parks	Glenwood
Muscatine	Mary Lou Petersen	Davenport
Page	Sue Stroyls	Clarinda
Polk	Pam and Reid Allen	West Des Moines
Pottawattamie	Josh Obrecht	Minden
Minden	Scott Ann Barker	Princeton
Shelby	Josh Obrecht	Minden
Story	Hank Zaletel	Nevada
Tama	Mark Proescholdt	Liscomb
Warren	Sue Spieker	Norwalk
Washington	Edwin Lins	Washington

1999 Fall Field Reports

Thomas H. Kent

WEATHER

August was slightly cooler and drier than normal with the warmest days at the end of the month. September was also cooler than normal and much drier. Harvesting of corn and soybeans progressed rapidly after mid-month. October was slightly cooler than normal and was the 10th driest on record. November continued the dry trend with isolated rain and a bit of snow in the northwest. It was the warmest November on record.

GENERAL TRENDS

The outstanding feature of the fall season was the failure of many gulls and waterfowl to reach Iowa by the end of the season. The extreme dry conditions produced mudflats for shorebirds, but fewer lingered late in November than last year. In spite of the warm weather, thousands of Lapland Longspurs descended to northern Iowa in late October, and astute observers found Smith's Longspurs for the second year in a row. Maybe they will be found to be regular in the fall as they were in the spring starting in 1981. My impression of the passerine migration was that it was ordinary — no striking weather patterns to produce "fall-outs" and relatively few late lingerers and out-of-range species. Red-breasted Nuthatches made a good showing beginning in August and a few Common Redpolls were found.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported were Brown Pelican, Arctic Tern, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Black-billed Magpie, Bullock's Oriole, and Lesser Goldfinch. The two Arctic Tern records and the Lesser Goldfinch are the first for Iowa. Casual species were Red Knot and Black-headed Gull. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was unusually early and Ibis species, Northern Parula, and Summer Tanager were unusually late.



SPECIES DATA

(* = documented)

Red-throated Loon: All: 1 basic at Red Rock Res. on 3 Nov (THK, JLF) and 1 on 6 Nov (*BE), 2 on 7 Nov (*JJD), and 2 on 12 Nov (AB-details) at Saylorville Res.

Pacific Loon: All: 1 imm. on 31 Oct at Little River L. in Decatur Co. (AB-photo) and 1 at Red Rock Res. on 3 Nov (*JLF, THK) and 6 Nov (*MPr).

Common Loon: First: 2 on 1 Aug at Spirit L. High count: 34 on 6 Nov at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Pied-billed Grebe: High count: 139 on 28 Sep at Fairfield (DKi).

Horned Grebe: First: 5 Oct at Forney L. (BKP/LJP). Last 6 on 22 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB). High count: 20 on 7 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB). Birds were reported from 9 locations.

Eared Grebe: All: 1 on 1 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP) and 2 on 13 Nov at Spirit L. (PH).

Western Grebe: First: 1 Aug at Spirit L. (LAS). Last: 26 Nov at Ingham L. (ETH). There were reports of 1 or 2 birds from 10 locations scattered over the four months of the fall season.

American White Pelican: Last: 4 on 28 Nov at Saylorville Res. (BE). High counts: 7,600 at Saylorville Res. on 19 Sep (BE) and 6,000 at Coralville Res. on 11 Oct (THK). Flocks were reported from all areas of the state. Numbers diminished by mid-October and only a few were reported in November.

Brown Pelican: All: 1 adult that was discovered at Saylorville Res. on 22 Sep (*JLF) was seen by many (*THK, *JJD, *CE) and remained until at least 29 Sep (PHA/RIA).

Double-crested Cormorant: High count: 1,300 at Coralville Res. (MCD). At Hitchcock N.A. 675 were migrating on 26 Sep (BKP/LJP). Small numbers were seen at the end of November.

American Bittern: All (singles): 14 Aug at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (ETH), 10 Sep and 5 Oct at Zirbel Sl. (JLW, CJF), 16 Oct at Coralville Res. (MCD), and 16 Oct in Warren Co. (AMJ).

Least Bittern: All: 1 on 12 Aug at Otter Creek M. (AB) and 2 on 21 and 27 Aug at Grover's L. (JJD, LAS).

Great Blue Heron: High count: 269 at Coralville Res. (MCD).

Great Egret: High count: 413 at Waubonsie W.A. on 23 Aug (SJD). Counts of over 100 were made by many individuals at Coralville Res., Otter Creek M., and Union Slough N.W.R.

Snowy Egret: All: 1-2 at Coralville Res. from 11 Aug (JLF) to 18 Aug (CE), 23 on 16 Aug and 22 on 23 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD), and 1 on 4 Sep at Casey Barrow Access (JLF).

Little Blue Heron: First: 1 imm. on 7 Aug at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Last: 1 on 4 Sep at Horseshoe Bend in Louisa Co. (JLF). High count: 4 on 16 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD). Birds were reported from 9 locations.

Cattle Egret: All: 114 on 23 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD) and 1 on 6 Nov at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Last: 2 imm. on 30 Oct at Sandhill L. High counts: 4 on 23 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD) and on 1 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). The only other reports were from Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 7 Sep, 16 Sep, and 15 Oct (THK, MCD) and from Saylorville Res. on 23 Sep (BE).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: 1 imm. at Waubonsie W.A. on 1 Aug (BKP/LJP) and 1 imm. at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. on 14 Sep (LAS).

Ibis species: All: 1 on 26 Sep at Teal Basin in Cerro Gordo Co. (JLW-details, CJF) and 5 on 26 Oct at Otter Creek M. (Mike Stegmann fide JJD) [record latest].

Turkey Vulture: Last: 18 Nov at Ames (Will Fields fide JJD). High counts: 28 on 29 Aug near Spirit L. (ETh), 41 on a tower on 17 Sep at Atlantic (MAP), and 65 on 18 Sep at Coralville Res. (CE).

Greater White-fronted Goose: First: 22 Aug at Terra L. in Johnston (BE).

Snow Goose: First: 15 Sep s. of Iowa City (MCD). High count: 115,000 at De Soto N.W.R. on 24 Nov (JJD)-most arrived there on 21-22 Nov.

Ross's Goose: All: 2 on 6 Nov at Saylorville Res. (BE) and 1 on 24 Nov at De Soto N.W.R. (JJD).

Mute Swan: All: 1 ad. was at Diamond L. throughout the period (MPr, m.ob.) and 5 were at Easter L. in Des Moines on 26 Oct (PHA/RIA).

Tundra Swan: First: 5 on 27 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 2,000 at Pool 9 in Allamakee Co. on 27, 29 Nov (THK, JLF, DeC). The only other report was of 10 at Spirit L. on 22 Nov (ETh).

Wood Duck: 7 ducklings were at Errington M. on 1 Aug (BE).

Gadwall: First: 11 on 22 Aug at Coralville Res. (MCD).

American Black Duck: All: 1 s. of Iowa City on 11 Oct (MCD), 2 at Saylorville Res. on 30 Oct (BE), and 1 on 3 Nov at Red Rock Res. (MPr).

Blue-winged Teal: 5 ducklings were at Errington M. on 5 Aug (BE).

Northern Pintail: First: 4 on 3 Aug in Warren Co. (JSi).

Green-winged Teal: First: 1 on 5 Sep at Coralville Res. (MCD). High count: 600 at Heron Bend in Lee Co. on 26 Nov (CE).

Canvasback: High count: 2,500 on Pool 19 in Lee Co. on 26 Nov (CE).

Greater Scaup: All: 1 on 21 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), 4 males on 30 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH-details), 6 at Spirit L. on 6 Nov (LAS), and 1 male on 20 Nov at Saylorville Res. (JJD-details).

Surf Scoter: All: 2 including 1 alternate male on 3 Oct at Gray's L. in Des Moines (PHA/RIA) [3rd earliest], 2 on 29 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), 3 on 31 Oct and 2 on 3 Nov at Meadow L. in Adair Co. (JLF, MPr), 1 on 2 Nov at East Okoboji (LAS), and 1 on 26 Nov on Pool 19 (CE).

Black Scoter: All 3 on 30 Oct and 2 on 1 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB, JLF).

Bufflehead: High count: 300 on 26 Nov at Pool 19 (CE).

Common Goldeneye: First: 22 Oct s. of Iowa City (MCD) [2nd earliest]. Also early was 1 at L. Manawa on 23 Oct (BKP/LJP) [3rd earliest].

Hooded Merganser: High count: 103 at Saylorville Res. on 29 Nov (JJD).

Common Merganser: First: 2 on 7 Nov at Saylorville Res. (JJD).

Ruddy Duck: On 21 Aug, broods were found at McIntosh Woods in Cerro Gordo Co. and at Meredith M. in Hancock Co. (SJD, JJD).

- Osprey:** First: 3 Aug at Saylorville Res. (Scott Rolles fide SJD). Last: 7 Nov at West Okoboji (ETh).
- Mississippi Kite:** All: 3 Sep at Des Moines (JJD, JLF).
- Bald Eagle:** There were 5 reports from August, but this is no longer unusual.
- Northern Goshawk:** All: 1 imm. on 8 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** All: 1 on 6 Oct in Jefferson Co. (DKi), 1 on 10 Oct in Washington Co. (DKi), and for the season at hawk watches 5 at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr) and 7 at Grammer Grove WA. (BPr).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** High counts: 288 on 18 Sep at Coralville Res. (CE), 299 on 20 Sep at Fairfield (DKi), and 326 on 20 Sep at Grammer Grove (BPr).
- Swainson's Hawk:** All were from hawk watches with 20 on 30 Sep and 10 on 1 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP) and 1 on 13 Oct at Grammer Grove WA. (BPr).
- Red-tailed Hawk:** High count: 134 on 13 Oct at Grammer Grove WA. (BPr).
- Rough-legged Hawk:** First: 9 Oct in Hancock Co. (CJF, JLV).
- Golden Eagle:** All: 2 imm. on 23 Oct at Grammer Grove WA. (BPr), 1 on 6 Nov in Marion Co. (JSi), 1 imm. on 7 Nov in Marion Co. (AB), and 10 imm. for the season at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr).
- Merlin:** First: 1 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (DHe). At hawk watches, 13 were at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr) and 10 were at Grammer Grove WA. (BPr). There were 14 other reports.
- Peregrine Falcon:** There were sightings from 8 locations, including multiple sightings at the major reservoirs (m.ob.) and 7 at Grammer Grove WA. (BPr).
- Prairie Falcon:** All: 4 at the hawk watch at Hitchcock N.A. on 23 Oct (*MOr), 24 Oct (MOr-details), 1 Nov (Clem Klaphake fide MOr), and 7 Nov (MOr-details), and 1 n. of Ankeny in Polk Co. on 30 Nov (JLF-details).
- Gray Partridge:** Birds were reported from Clay, Dickinson, Plymouth, and Winnebago counties.
- Ruffed Grouse:** At Yellow River Forest, 2 were flushed on 27 Nov (JLF, THK).
- Northern Bobwhite:** The only report was from Jefferson Co. on 27 Oct (DKi).
- Yellow Rail:** All: 7 on 8 Oct at Riverton A. (Carl Priebe fide WRS).
- Virginia Rail:** The only report was from Grover's L. on 27 Aug (LAS).
- Sora:** Last: 13 Oct at Harrier M. (JJD).
- Common Moorhen:** Last: 15 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (PH, MCK). At Green Island WA. 16, mostly young, were seen on 27 Aug (THK) and a brood was at Union Slough N.W.R. on 1 Sep (MCK).
- American Coot:** High count: 5,000 on 17 Oct at West Okoboji (JJ).
- Sandhill Crane:** The high count at Otter Creek M. was 16 on 26 Oct (Mike Stegmann fide JJD) and the last 2 were there on 15 Nov (MPr). Others included 4 at Green Island WA. on 27 Aug (THK), the last 2 at Cardinal M. on 9 Sep (DeC), 1 on 15 Oct at "west valley" (DKi), and 1 on 13 Nov at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr).
- Black-bellied Plover:** First: 4 on 12 Aug at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 1 on 20 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 20 on 12 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB). There were reports from 5 other locations.

American Golden-Plover: First: 1 Aug at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 21 Nov at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (LAS). High count: 119 on 22 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Semipalmated Plover: Last: 27 Oct at Coralville Res. (MCD).

Piping Plover: All (singles): 15 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE), 18 Aug at Coralville Res. (CE), 23 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD), and 17 Sep at Harrier M. (Mike Havlik fide JJD) [ties 3rd latest].

Killdeer: High count: 238 on 23 Aug at Coralville Res. (SJD).

American Avocet: First: 6 Aug at Coralville Res. (JLF). Last: 9 on 26 Oct at Riverton A. (Carl Priebe fide WRS). High count: 12 on 17 Aug at Horseshoe Bend in Wapello Co. (*TJu). The birds at Coralville Res. reached a peak of 8 on 16 Aug (AB) and remained until 16 Sep (MCD). Others were seen by multiple observers at Red Rock Res., Saylorville Res., Union Slough N.W.R., and Virgin L. in Palo Alto Co.

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 2 on 1 Aug at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 1 on 14 Nov at Coralville Res. (CE, MCD). High count: 29 on 28 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Last: 1 on 31 Oct at Maynard Reece WA. (MCK). High count: 160 on 29 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Solitary Sandpiper: Last: 3 on 28 Sep at Palo M. in Linn Co. (MCD).

Willet: All: 1 from 1 to 18 Aug at Coralville Res. (JLF, THK) and 1 on 20 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Upland Sandpiper: High count and last: 7 at 7-Cities Sod Farm in Scott Co. on 27 Aug (THK).

Hudsonian Godwit: On 27 Sep, 28 were killed by an airplane at the Des Moines airport (Ryan Powers fide JJD, see note in this issue).

Marbled Godwit: All: 2 on 18 Aug at Coralville Res. (CE), 2 on 23 Aug (SJD) with 1 remaining to 17 Sep (JJD) at Saylorville Res., and 1 on 4 Sep at Casey Borrow Access in Des Moines Co. (JLF).

Ruddy Turnstone: First: 1 Aug at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 2 on 8 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB). There were multiple sightings at these two locations as well as 1 at Diamond L. in Dickinson Co. on 27 Aug (LAS).

Red Knot: All: 1 adult basic on 4 Sep at Horseshoe Bend in Louisa Co. (*JLF, found by Chuck Fuller on 3 Sep).

Sanderling: First: 4 on 1 Aug at Coralville Res. (JLF, CE, MCD). Last: 5 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 21 on 21 Sep at Saylorville Res. (AB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last: 2 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (PH). High count: 150 on 1 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE).



American Avocet and Yellowlegs companion-feeding at Virgin Lake, Palo Alto County, Iowa, 10 August 1999. Photo by Reid Allen.

Western Sandpiper: All: 1 alternate on 10 Aug at Coralville Res. (JLF-details), 1 molting adult on 19, 23 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD-details), 2 juv. on 23 Aug at MidAmerican Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (SJD), 1 on 1 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK-details), and 1 on 6 Sep at Ocheyedan A. in Clay Co. (LAS-details).

Least Sandpiper: Last: 7 Nov at L. Macbride (CE) and Muskunky M. (AB). High count: 134 on 23 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

White-rumped Sandpiper: All: 1 adult half molted to basic plumage was at Coralville Res. on 10, 11 Aug (*THK, CE, JLF, found by James Huntington).

Baird's Sandpiper: Last: 6 on 27 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 30 on 1 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). There were multiple reports from 7 locations.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last: 19 Nov at L. Macbride (JLF). High count: 1,400 on 1 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK).

Dunlin: First: 1 juv. on 8 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 5 on 15 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Stilt Sandpiper: Last: 7 on 15 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 400 on 11 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (PH).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Last: 1 on 26 Sep at Ottumwa (DKi). High count: 42 on 1 Aug at Coralville Res. (JLF). There were multiple sightings from 7 locations.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Last: 1 juv. at Red Rock Res. (JLF, THK). High count: 18 on 29 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: 1 alternate and 1 basic on 10 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 2 on 14 Nov at Coralville Res. (MCD). High count: 55 on 13 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (PH).

Common Snipe: High count: 50 in north-central Iowa on 25 Oct (THK).

Wilson's Phalarope: Last: an injured bird on 23 Sep at Runnells W.A. (AB). Reports from other locations were 1 on 18 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD, JJD) and 3 on 1 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (DHe).

Red-necked Phalarope: First: 30 Aug at Harrier M. (SJD). Last: 6 on 25 Sep at Saylorville Res. (AB, CE, AMJ). Up to 4 birds were seen at 8 locations.

Laughing Gull: All: 1 1st summer bird on 10 Aug at Coralville Res. (*THK, JLF-details).

Franklin's Gull: Last: 12 Nov at Saylorville Res. (AB). High count: 20,000 on 9 Oct at Rathbun Res. (TNJ).

Black-headed Gull: All: 1-2 adult basic from 1 Oct (*LAS) to 13 Nov (PH) at Spirit L. (RIA-photo, JLF-photo).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 1 Aug at Coralville Res. (JLF). Last and high count: 515 on 28 Nov at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Ring-billed Gull: The usual large numbers had not arrived by the end of the period.

Herring Gull: A few immature birds were noted in August.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: All: 1 1st-year bird was studied at Spirit L. on 6 Nov (*LAS), 21 Nov (*MCK), and 24 Nov (PH-details).

Glaucous Gull: A 1st-winter bird with Glaucous/Herring gull features was noted on 21 Nov at West Okoboji (MCK).



Black Headed Gull at Spirit Lake, Iowa. 9 October 1999. Photo by Anthony Hertzell.

Sabine's Gull: All: 1 juv. on 18 Aug at Coralville Res. (*THK, *JLF) [2nd earliest].

Caspian Tern: First and last at Coralville Res. on 1 Aug and 30 Sep (MCD). High count: 70 on 8 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Common Tern: All: 1 imm. on 14 Sep at Saylorville Res. (AB), 2 juv. on 15 Sep at Rock Creek L. (THK, JLF), and 1 adult basic on 10 Oct at Spirit L. (AB-details).

Arctic Tern: All: An adult was found at Sandpiper Beach at Saylorville Res. on 18 Aug (*SJD-photos, *JJD) and was seen again on 20 Aug (*AMJ). It was not found on 19 Aug; however, late on the 19th a juvenile Arctic Tern was found south of Cherry Glen Access at Saylorville Res. (*SJD, *JJD, *THK). These records were accepted by the Records Committee and are the first for Iowa.

Forster's Tern: Last: 10 on 20 Oct at Red Rock Res. (JLF, THK).

Least Tern: All: At MidAmerican Ponds in Pottawattamie Co., 4 on 3 Aug (BKP/LJP) and 6 (including an adult feeding a fledgling) on 17 Aug (SJD, BKP/LJP).

Black Tern: Only report: 50 on 3 Sep at Coralville Res. (MCD).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: All: 1 on 18 Aug at Ankeny (*SJD), 1 from 20 Aug to 6 Nov at Mason City (*CJF), and multiple sightings at Grinnell from 2 Sep to 24 Nov (MPr, JLF).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Last: 24 Sep at Marble Rock (TJS).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Last: 30 Oct at Mystic (TNJ-details) [2nd latest].

Long-eared Owl: All: 1 on 24 Oct at Doolittle Prairie (Will Fields fide JJD) and 6 on 22 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Short-eared Owl: All: 16 for the fall near Kellerton in Ringgold Co. (Jaime Edwards fide JJD), 2 on 5 Nov in Jefferson Co. (DKi), and 3 on 7 Nov at Sedan A. in Appanoose Co. (TNJ).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 on 14 Nov in Warren Co. (JSi) and 1 on 16 Nov ne. of Ames (Jim Pease fide JJD).

Common Nighthawk: Last: 8 Oct s. of Boone (KJ). High count: 200 on 25 Aug at Cedar Rapids (MCD). Other flocks of 20 to 50 were noted at 4 locations.

Whip-poor-will: All: 11 Sep at Forest Lake Camp in Wapello Co. (MPr).

Chimney Swift: High count: 100 at Ames on 12 Sep (JJD).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Last: 12 Oct at Cresco in Howard Co. (MAP).

- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** A molting male was at Pilot Knob in Winnebago Co. on 21 Aug (SJD, JJD) and a bird was last seen at the breeding location at Bacon Creek in Woodbury Co. on 27 Aug (BFH).
- Pileated Woodpecker:** The most unusual locations were at Pilot Knob in Hancock Co. on 21 Aug (SJD, JJD), Sedan Bottoms in Appanoose Co. in Oct (AB), at Stephen's Forest in Lucas Co. on 9 Oct (JSi), and at Pappy's Lake Side Area in Emmet Co. on 25 Oct (RR).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First: 11 Aug at Grammer Grove WA. (MPr). Last: 7 Sep at Decorah (DeC).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** First: 21 Aug at Iowa L. in Emmet Co. (SJD, JJD), at Spirit L. (SJD), and at Grammer Grove WA. (MPr). Last: 4 Sep at Grammer Grove WA. (MPr). There were 3 other reports.
- Alder Flycatcher:** Mark Proescholdt found birds singing at Grammer Grove WA. on 11 and 25 Aug.
- Least Flycatcher:** Last: 27 Sep at Algona (MCK).
- Great Crested Flycatcher:** Last: 25 Sep at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC).
- Western Kingbird:** All: singles on 17 Aug at MidAmerican Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. and in western Union Co. (SJD).
- Eastern Kingbird:** High count: 59 on 4 Sep in Dickinson Co. (ETh).
- Northern Shrike:** First: 24 Oct s. of Boone (KJ). There were 12 other sightings with the most southerly in Louisa and Warren counties.
- White-eyed Vireo:** All: 1 at Forest Lake Camp in Wapello Co. on 11 Sep (MPr, AMJ).
- Bell's Vireo:** All: 12 on 17 Aug s. of Bartlett in Fremont Co. (SJD).
- Blue-headed Vireo:** First: 21 Aug at Pilot Knob in Hancock Co. (SJD, JJD) [2nd earliest]. Last: 9 Oct at Stephen's Forest (JSi).
- Philadelphia Vireo:** First: 8 Aug n. of Iowa City (JLF) [2nd earliest]. Last: 25 Sep at Grammer Grove WA. (MPr).
- American Crow:** Counts at Ames were 495 on 4 Sep and 8,000 in late Nov (JJD).
- Black-billed Magpie:** All: 1 on 27 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (*SM) and 1 on 9 Oct at Broken Kettle Grassland in Plymouth Co. (*WF).
- Purple Martin:** High counts: 146 on 6 Aug at East Okoboji (ETh) and 53 on 22 Aug at West Okoboji (JJ).
- Tree Swallow:** Last: 24 Oct at Coralville Res. (MCD).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Last: 29 on 4 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).
- Bank Swallow:** High count: 625 on 8 Aug in Marion Co. (PHA/RIA).
- Cliff Swallow:** High count: 1,000 on 22 Aug at Errington M. (BE).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** First: 14 Aug at Grammer Grove WA. (MPr). There were August reports from 6 locations and birds were common throughout the period.
- Brown Creeper:** First: 9 Aug at Grammer Grove WA. (MPr).
- Carolina Wren:** Reports were from Boone, Hardin, Jefferson, and Polk counties, which greatly under represents the occurrence of this species.

House Wren: Last: 11 Oct in Warren (MPr) and Johnson (THK) counties.

Winter Wren: First: 25 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Sedge Wren: Last: 12 Oct at Myre Sl. (RGo).

Marsh Wren: Last: 31 Oct in Webster Co. (MPr).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First: 1 male on 17 Aug at Spencer (LAS-details) [record earliest by 2 weeks]. High count: 21 on 29 Sep at Algona (MCK).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 31 Aug at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City (THK). Last: 25 Nov at L. Ahquabi (JSi).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Last: 20 Sep at Fairfield (DKi).

Veery: Last: 14 Sep at Mason City (RGo).

Swainson's Thrush: Last: 22 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Wood Thrush: Last: 9 Oct at Mason City (JLW).

Varied Thrush: All: 1 at Fenton in Kossuth Co. on 20, 30 Nov (MCK, JLF).

Gray Catbird: Last: 11 Oct at Iowa City (JLF).

Northern Mockingbird: All: 13 Aug in Wayne Co. (AB).

Brown Thrasher: Last: 19 Nov at Sioux Center (JV) and Grammer Grove W.A. (AB).

American Pipit: First: 27 Aug at Diamond L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Last: 16 Nov at Maynard Reece W.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK). High count: 100 on 26 Oct at Snake Creek M. (JJD).

Cedar Waxwing: Nest building was noted in Allamakee Co. on 14 Aug and a bird was on the nest on 28 Aug (DeC).

Blue-winged Warbler: Last: 5 Sep at Hickory Hill P. (CE). A Brewster's hybrid was at the Croton Unit in Lee Co. on 18 Aug (AB).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 21 Aug at Pilot Knob (SJD) and Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 17 Sep at Pine L. (MPr). High count: 6 on 30 Aug at Hickory Hill P. (THK).

Tennessee Warbler: First: 9 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 9 Oct at Stephen's Forest (JSi).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Last: 19 Oct at Decorah (DeC).

Nashville Warbler: First: 21 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 3 Oct at Woodland Mounds in Warren Co. (MPr).

Northern Parula: Last: 13 Nov at Saylorville Res. (*JJD) [record latest by a month].

Yellow Warbler: Last: 15 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 8 Aug n. of Iowa City (JLF). Last: 25 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 21 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 28 Sep n. of Iowa City (JLF).

Cape May Warbler: All: 27 Aug at Steamboat Rock (MPr), 29 Aug at Algona (MCK), 29 Aug at Trumbull L. (LAS), 19 Sep at Hooper G.A. (JSi), and 3 Oct (3 females) at Mason City (JLW).

- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** All: 1 imm. on 21 Aug at Trumbull L. (LAS), 3 on 31 Aug at Hickory Hill P. (THK), and 1 on 6 Oct at Mason City (RGo).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** First: 31 Aug at Fairfield (DKi). Last: 13 Nov s. of Boone (KJ). High count: 53 on 28 Sep in Linn Co. (MCD).
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** First: 21 Aug at Pilot Knob (SJD). Last: 18 Sep in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** First: 16 Aug at Grammer Grove WA. (MPr). Last: 6 Sep in Warren Co. (MPr).
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** All: 1 on 21 Aug at Pilot Knob in Hancock Co. (SJD, JJD), which is an unusual location.
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** First: 14 Aug at Algona (MCK). Last: 6 Sep in Warren Co. (MPr).
- Cerulean Warbler:** All: 1 on 18 Aug at Croton Unit in Lee Co. (AB).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** First: 1 Aug at Stephenis Forest in Lucas Co. (AB). Last: 11 Oct at Coralville Res. (MCD).
- American Redstart:** Last: 26 Sep at Grammer Grove WA. (MPr). High count: 30 on 5 Sep at Hickory Hill P. (CE).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** All: 1 on 6 Sep at Runnells WA. (MPr).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** All: 3 on 18 Aug at Croton Unit in Lee Co. (AB).
- Ovenbird:** Last: 2 Oct at Mason City (JLW).
- Kentucky Warbler:** All: 22 Aug at Cairo Woods in Louisa Co. (MCD), 5 Sep at Hickory Hill P. (CE), and 5 Sep at Saylorville Res. (JSi).
- Connecticut Warbler:** All: 1 on 6 Sep at Indianola (*JSi).
- Mourning Warbler:** First: 27 Aug at Bacon Creek in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Last: 15 Sep at Grammer Grove WA. (MPr).
- Common Yellowthroat:** Last: 20 Nov at West Des Moines (PHA/RIA).
- Hooded Warbler:** A bird recorded for Walton L. in Jefferson Co. this spring was erroneous (DKi).
- Wilson's Warbler:** First: 16 Aug at Spirit L. (ETh). Last: 17 Sep at Pine L. (MPr).
- Canada Warbler:** First: 9 Aug at Grammer Grove WA. (MPr). Last: 5 Sep at Hickory Hill P. (CE).
- Summer Tanager:** All (singles): 18 Aug at Croton Unit (AB), 18 Sep at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP), 16 Oct in Dallas Co. (*JJD) [3rd latest], and 7 Nov at Algona (*MCK) [record latest].
- Spotted Towhee:** All: 29 Sep at Clive (RGo) [ties 3rd earliest], 7 Oct at Mason City (CJF), and 9 Oct s. of Boone (KJ).
- American Tree Sparrow:** First: 16 Oct in Carroll Co. (ETh).
- Chipping Sparrow:** Last: 23 Nov in West Des Moines (PHA/RIA). High count: 35 on 1 Sep at Hickory Hill P. (THK).
- Savannah Sparrow:** High count: 75 on 17 Oct at Sedan A. in Appanoose Co. (TNJ).
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** Noted as abundant on Waterman Prairie in O'Brien Co. on 12 Aug (DCH).
- Henslow's Sparrow:** All: singing birds were at Walnut Ridge N.W.R. on 8 Aug, in Monroe Co. on 21 Aug (PHA/RIA), and in Warren Co. on 22 Aug (JSi).

Le Conte's Sparrow: First: on 18 Sep at Snake Creek M. (MPr) and Harrier M. (MPr). Last: on 25 Nov in Wayne Co. (AB). High count: 15 on 17 Oct at Sedan A. in Appanoose Co. (TNJ).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: All: 2 each at Snake Creek M. and Harrier M. on 18 Sep (MPr), 3 at Snake Creek M. on 22 Sep (THK), and 1 at Coralville Res. on 16 Oct (MCD).

Fox Sparrow: First: 24 Sep at Marble Rock (TJS).

Lincoln's Sparrow: First: 20 Sep at L. Meyer (DeC). Last: 10 Oct at Saylorsville Res. (BE).

White-throated Sparrow: First: 13 Sep at Mason City (RGo).

Harris's Sparrow: First: 22 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

White-crowned Sparrow: First: 28 Sep at Cardinal M. (DeC).

Dark-eyed Junco: First: 29 Sep at Marshalltown (Betty Savage fide MPr).

Lapland Longspur: First: 18 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo, CJF). High count: 3,000 (crude estimate) in north-central Iowa on 25 Oct (THK). Large numbers were present in northern Iowa in late October. Apparently due to the extremely dry condition, flocks of birds would swoop down on the shallow marshes to drink and quickly fly off.

Smith's Longspur: All: 2 on 17 Oct at Welch L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS) [2nd earliest], 3 on 23 Oct at DU Marsh in Clay Co. (LAS) [3rd earliest], 1 on 27 Oct, 10 on 31 Oct, and 3 on 3 Nov at Maynard Reece W.A. (MCK), 23 on 7 Nov at Ocheyedan A. in Clay Co. (LAS), and 1 on 13 Nov at Harrier M. (MPr-details) [3rd latest]. The two previous

records for the fall period occurred last year and there are two December records.

Snow Bunting: First: 23 Oct at Trumbull L. (LAS). There were 5 October reports and 8 for November, occurring as far south as Marion Co.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Last: 18 Oct at Marshalltown (Betty Savage fide MPr).

Blue Grosbeak: Last: on 17 Aug at MidAmerican Ponds (SJD) and Sheldon Basin in Fremont Co. (SJD, BKP/LJP)

Indigo Bunting: Last: 17 Oct in Marion Co. (JSi).

Dickcissel: Last: 7 Nov at West Des Moines (PHA/RIA).

Bobolink: Last and high count: 35 on 12 Sep at Harrier M. (JJD).

Eastern Meadowlark: Last: 10 Oct at Saylorsville Res. (BE).

Western Meadowlark: Last: 7 Oct in Osceola Co. (JJ).

Rusty Blackbird: First: 6 on 28 Sep at Cardinal M. (DeC). High count: 80 on 14 Nov at Palo M. (CE).

Brewer's Blackbird: All: 2 on 2 Oct at Mason City (JLW-details) [2nd earliest], 3 males on 23 Oct at DU Marsh in Clay Co. (LAS-details), 3 males and 1 female in northwestern Palo Alto Co. on 25 Oct (THK-details, JLF), and 18 on 13 Nov at Harrier M. (MPr-details).

Great-tailed Grackle: Last: 23 Oct in northwestern Palo Alto Co. (DHe). High count: 62 at Waubonsie W.A. on 23 Aug (SJD). Others were seen in Boone and Clay counties.

Bullock's Oriole: All: An adult male in fresh basic plumage, which arrived at the home of Randy and Rhea Leete on 4 Nov and was discovered by their son; was seen by many starting on 17 Dec (Randy Leete-photos, *THK-photos, m.ob.). This would be the third Iowa record if accepted by the Records Committee.

Purple Finch: First: 11 Sep at Mason City (CJF).

White-winged Crossbill: All: 12 on 28 Nov at Fairmont Cemetery in Davenport (JLF, THK).



*Bullock's Oriole near Elk Horn,
Shelby County, Iowa. 18
December 1999. Photo by T. H.
Kent.*

Common Redpoll: All: 1 on 22 Oct at Mason City (CJF) [3rd earliest], 2 on 2 Nov at West Des Moines (PHA/RIA), and 2 on 19 Nov n. of Iowa City (JLF, THK).

Pine Siskin: First: 21 Sep at Algona (MCK). Moderate numbers were noted in October and November.

Lesser Goldfinch: All: A male was photographed on 5 Aug at Rockford in Floyd Co. by Ellen S. Montgomery. This bird was not found the next day. This first record for Iowa was accepted by the Records Committee.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: High count: 200 on 12 Sep along Tama Road n. of Burlington (KK).

COMMENT

The database comprised 35 reports and 41 documentations (of 22 species). I entered 1,224 bird sightings into the database, which is down from 1,452 in 1998, but up from 1,200 in 1997. The decrease in 1999 may reflect the relatively bland season.

As I indicated last year, this will be my last Field Report. I have enjoyed this task and the people that I have worked with over the last 20 years. As a tribute to those who have made the Field Reports possible, I have compiled a list of those who have contributed reports or documentations since inception of the Field Reports section in Iowa Bird Life in 1961. In the table, I have listed the 122 of 656 contributors who reported 10 or more times. They are listed in order

by their first year of contribution. The inclusive dates and number of reports (in parentheses) indicate that the contributors fall into three categories: long-term regular reporters, short-term regular reporters, and long-term irregular reporters. Of the remaining 534 contributors, 6 reported nine times, 10 eight times, 15 seven times, 19 six times, 21 five times, 24 four times, 44 three times, 84 two times, and 311 one time.

REPORTS RECEIVED * = DOCUMENTATION ONLY

Pam H. Allen (PHA)/Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Aaron Brees (AB), Indianola; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Fort Collins, CO; Michael C. Dooley (MCD), Cedar Rapids; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Urbandale; *Will Fields (WF), Ames; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; Dennis Henrickson (DHe), Estherville; Paul Hertzel (PH), Mason City; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Thomas N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Jack Jones (JJ), Sioux City; Karl Jungbluth (KJ), Boone; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Dave Killman (DKi), Fairfield; Keith Kimmerle (KK), Mississippi (city not given); *Sue Mattix (SM), Omaha, NE; Mark Orsag (MOr), Crete, NE; Babs K. Padelford (BKP)/Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Russell Reisz (RR), Las Cruces, NM; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Thomas J. Staudt (TJS), Antarctica; Ed Thelen (ETh), Spirit Lake; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; and Jan L. Walter (JLW), Mason City.

211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246 (thkent@home.com)

Hudsonian Godwit Mortality at Des Moines

Ryan Powers and James J. Dinsmore

At 7 a.m. on 27 September 1999, as a Cessna Citation Jet was taking off at the Des Moines International Airport, it encountered a flock of medium-sized birds that were perched on the runway. Several birds struck the plane in multiple locations and the plane immediately returned to the airport to land. After a thorough inspection, it was concluded that the plane had suffered minimal damage and only needed minor repairs. Ryan Powers, a Wildlife Specialist with the USDA Wildlife Services, was summoned to identify the birds involved in this incident. He picked up a total of 28 dead birds, many of them badly damaged from the wildlife/aircraft strike. He immediately recognized them as shorebirds and later identified them as Hudsonian Godwits. Three specimens were saved and the identification was confirmed by Dinsmore.

Several things are unusual about this incident. First, Hudsonian Godwits are rare to uncommon in Iowa and the interior states in fall. Although some Hudsonian Godwits move to the East Coast prior to migrating south to their South American wintering grounds, it has generally been assumed that most Hudsonian Godwits fly nonstop south from their breeding grounds around Hudson Bay with little evidence of stopping along the way. The 28 birds killed in Des Moines are the most Hudsonian Godwits ever reported in Iowa in the fall. Presumably other members of the flock were not struck but we do not know how many birds were present. The only other large group of Hudsonian Godwits reported in the fall in Iowa was 26 at Saylorville Reservoir on 9 August 1997 (IBL 68:12). A recent summary of groups of Hudsonian Godwits in fall in midcontinental North America lists only 11 reports of more than 28 birds; the seven largest groups were in Saskatchewan and presumably were premigration concentrations (Skagen et al. 1999).

An obvious question is why were these birds on the runway at the airport. It had been raining during the night and perhaps the bad weather had forced the birds to land, mistaking the wet runways for standing water. One has to wonder if such groundings of Hudsonian Godwits during fall migration are a regular occurrence or if this was a

one-time event. The rarity of reports of Hudsonian Godwits in the Midwest in the fall argues against it being a regular event. However, if these landings occurred during the night and the birds took flight again at daybreak, they would seldom be seen or reported by birders or others. Although wildlife/aircraft strikes have been widely reported, most involve species such as gulls, raptors, starlings, and waterfowl (www.faa.gov/arp/pdf/bash9098.pdf). Even though several species of shorebirds have been identified in wildlife/aircraft strikes, no known strikes involving Hudsonian Godwits have been reported previously.

Skagen, S. K., P. B. Sharpe, R. B. Waltermire, and M. B. Dillon. 1999. Biogeographic profiles of shorebird migration in midcontinental North America, *Biol Sci Rep*, USGS/BRD/BSR—2000–0003.

USDA, APHIS-Wildlife Services, 6000 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321 and 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Great Gray Owl in Polk County

James J. Dinsmore and Malia A. Schepers

On 3 March 1996, while working at the Wildlife Care Clinic at Iowa State University, Schepers learned that a Great Gray Owl had been turned in by Stephanie Romey, a wildlife rehabilitator from Des Moines. By the time the owl arrived at the care clinic, it was dehydrated and had a broken wing. Despite efforts to care for the bird, it soon died. On 4 March, Schepers notified Dinsmore of the bird and turned it over to him where a study skin was made. The bird was a male with no fat and weighed 765 grams. It now is specimen No. 2643 in the Iowa State University collection. Its large size, overall dark gray color, white markings under the eyes, and relatively long tail make the bird unmistakable.

As best we can determine, this bird was found in the 1700 block of Hickman Road in Des Moines on 1 March. It apparently had been hit by a car and was reported to the Des Moines Animal Control Department. They in turn passed the bird on to Romey who cared for



*Great Gray Owl. Photo by
James J. Dinsmore.*

it and then turned it over to the Wildlife Care Clinic.

One of the largest invasions of Great Gray Owls into the north-central states occurred during the winter of 1995–1996. At least 342 individuals were reported from 39 counties in Minnesota, the largest invasion on record (Eckert 1996). Several of those birds were reported in southern Minnesota so it was not surprising that a few

reached Iowa. To our knowledge, this is the furthest south this species has been reported in the Midwest. What is most surprising is that it reached Des Moines but was not reported by anyone until it was found injured.

Eckert, K. R. 1996. The 1995–96 influx of northern owls, *The Loon* 68:221–228.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu) and 28041 510th Avenue, Kelley, IA 50134

Garganey at Forney Lake

Rick Schmid

On Friday, 2 April 1999, I had been birding all day at Waubonsie Wildlife Area and Riverton. I had planned all along to stop at Forney Lake on my way home to Omaha at the end of the day. I introduced myself to a fellow birder at Riverton, and he mentioned he had been to Forney Lake that morning. He said that there wasn't much there except for American White Pelicans. I was disappointed to hear that but decided to stop anyway.

At Forney Lake, I passed by the expected teal, Buffleheads, Ruddy Ducks, and cormorants, and of course, I saw the large flock of

American White Pelicans on the far side of the lake. As I passed one of the small parking areas, I glanced over and noticed three small ducks, one of which didn't look quite right. I looked at it through my binoculars and noticed the white stripe running through the bird's eye and all the way down its brown face and nape. The bird was in the water very close to the shore and, based on its disheveled appearance, had probably been preening extensively. It was swimming with a pair of similarly disheveled Blue-winged Teal. As the bird swam farther from shore and shook itself, its feathers fell back into place, and it became obvious that the bird was a drake Garganey.



Garganey at Forney Lake, Fremont County, Iowa. 10 April 1999. Photo by Reid I. Allen.

I watched it swimming close to the shore for several minutes and admired its sleek, handsome look. It had a rich brown head and neck, which faded to a more mottled brown and black breast. Several long silver and black plumes extended from its back and hung down over its flanks. In flight, it showed a lot of light gray and white in its wing coverts, and a green speculum.

Almost exactly a year earlier, on 4 April 1998, my ten-year-old daughter and I had seen a Garganey in central Nebraska. When found in Nebraska or Iowa, the Garganey can best be described as lost. A Eurasian teal, the Garganey was first recorded in North America in March 1957 near Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. It breeds in many parts of Europe, the British Isles, and parts of Russia, including Siberia. Its normal wintering grounds include southern Europe, Africa, and southern Asia.

Although the Garganey at Forney Lake was not a life bird for me, it was a real treat to see this beautiful duck.

4366 South 149th Terrace, Omaha, NE 68137

Letter to the Editor

James J. Dinsmore

With this issue of Iowa Bird Life, Tom Kent ends a remarkable string of contributions to the Field Reports section of the journal. Tom's first field report was for the summer season of 1979. He had replaced Nick Halmi and Mike Newlon who compiled the reports for two years after field reports founder

Woody Brown gave up the section in 1976. In the ensuing 22 years, Tom was the sole compiler for three years and contributed one or more articles in another 14 years. In total, Tom wrote 30 columns by himself and co-wrote another nine.



T. H. Kent

Aside from Tom's longevity in this role, his work has been distinguished in several other ways. Perhaps most obvious to the casual reader is his change in the format of the Field Reports. Previously, records for several species were lumped into one paragraph. Tom changed this by summarizing reports for each species in a separate entry.

With the species name in bold type, this change made it much easier for readers and researchers to find records for species of interest.

Although less obvious, perhaps of even greater importance are changes Tom made in screening the material that appeared in the Field Reports. Tom instituted a policy calling for documentation of unusual records, both of species not expected to be found in Iowa and of species found in unusual places or on unusual dates. His articles over the years have continued to remind readers of the need to carefully document such records and to provide those details both to the Field Reports editor and to the Records Committee if they were especially unusual. This change, moving the Field Reports from a somewhat casual collection of observations to a more data-based article, at first probably ruffled feathers of some contributors. However, in the long term, the changes were appropriate because they meant that the published reports were very likely to be correct and readers could place greater reliability on them.

Tom also has acted as the mentor to others who have written Field Report articles, passing on his ideas and criteria. Now that Tom has decided to retire from writing these columns, we all owe him our thanks for his tremendous contribution of time and talent in making these columns a tremendous repository of information on Iowa's birds that will be extremely useful to Iowa birders and others for generations to come.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

In Memoriam — John M. Osness

Hank Zaletel

John M. Osness, longtime Iowa Ornithologists' Union member and former president, died in Waterloo 18 January 1999. John was born 31 March 1917 in Cambridge, Iowa in Story County. He moved with his family to Des Moines where attended public school. He graduated from East High School in 1934.

During the 1930s, he worked at the Spencer Boat Livery where he helped repair boats and motors and became involved in motorboat racing. He attended Iowa State College and the Illinois Institute of Technology. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the Chicago Ordnance District. In 1945, he began working for the Chamberlain Manufacturing Corporation where he was employed for 39 years. He retired from the position of Quality Control Manager in 1983. John married Lois G. Boller on 6 July 1947.

In his letter to the membership of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union in 1971, he stated that "My wife Lois, our son Nick, and I are indebted to many people for helping us become birders. We date our interest from 1957 as that was the year



John M. Osness

that Miss Pearl Lyon, Nick's second grade teacher, encouraged his interest and ours by introducing us to the Audubon Wildlife films, the Waterloo Audubon Society, and Dr. Myrle Burk, who in turn introduced us to the IOU. Our education by all the fine people in these various organizations that we have had the pleasure of associating with has made our birding activities a real joy."

Some of his favorite birding activities included trips to Hawk Mountain, Central Nebraska for Sandhill Cranes, Texas for Whooping Cranes, and annual vacations to Central Minnesota where he enjoyed viewing and photographing loons, Great Blue Herons, and other birds.

He served as president of IOU from 1971 to 1973; held offices in the Chamberlain Employees Credit Union, the Cedar Valley Chess Club, the Waterloo Audubon Society, the Friends of the Library, SCORE, the Iowa State Chess Association in which he started the *Iowa Chess En Passant* newspaper; and was a member of the Sons of Norway.

1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@nevia.net)

Book Review

James J. Dinsmore

Owls: A Guide to the Owls of the World. Claus Konig, Friedhelm Weick, and Jan-Hendrik Becking. Yale University Press, New Haven. 1999. 462 pp., 64 color plates, hardbound, \$50.

This latest in the Helm series of bird family identification guides covers 213 species of owls. An introductory chapter provides an overview of owl morphology, anatomy, food, hunting, behavior, breeding, vocalizations, systematics, and taxonomy. Chapters on molecular evolution and systematics, how to study owls, and conservation provide a perspective somewhat different from other books in this series. The bulk of the book includes 64 color plates illustrating 212 species and the species accounts. The species accounts follow the usual format of this series and cover identification, vocalizations, distribution, movements, habitat, description, measurements and

weight, geographic variation, habits, food, breeding, status and conservation, remarks, and references. Generally tightly written, they are packed with information.

Most Iowa readers will be interested in the plates, range maps, and species accounts. Although the plates will probably work to identify most species, I personally found them disappointing. The color patterns seem to be generally fairly good, but somehow the plates just don't capture the subtle beauty of owl's plumage. It often appears that in attending to the detailed patterns on individual feathers, Weick was unable to capture the delicacy and softness so characteristic of owl feathers. One nice feature is the inclusion of downy young or juveniles for many species. The color plates are supplemented by a number of nicely done line drawings.

Range maps are provided for all species. State boundaries are not indicated on the base map used for most North American species so one has to use rivers, lakes, and coastlines for orientation. In particular, the rivers on these maps are often not much help and it is hard to figure out where the range boundaries of a number of species are. The range of the Burrowing Owl is shown far to the east of where it occurs (into Illinois); the Northern Saw-whet Owl is shown nesting in northern Illinois and Indiana; and the Long-eared Owl is shown nesting through most of Missouri. I realize that range maps are hard to plot but the errors on the few species that I scrutinized don't give me much confidence in the others, especially those species that have broad distributions. However, I was fascinated by the many owl species that have limited distributions and suspect that many globe trotting birders will find this book useful in learning where these species occur.

So who should want to own this book? Anyone with a special interest in raptors will probably find much of interest in this book. Likewise, it appears to be a great source of general information on most aspects of the life history of owls.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore

The lead article of the March 1950 issue featured a study of the nesting biology of the Northern Bobwhite by Willard Klimstra. Based on work done in Davis County in 1946 and 1947, it reminds us that this species, now undergoing a long-term population decline, was still quite common in southern Iowa 50 years ago. Several short articles featured Davenport, the site of the spring 1950 meeting and discussed field trips and the Davenport Public Museum (now the Putnam Museum). A summary of the 1949–1950 Christmas Bird Counts in Iowa listed 71 species, a total surpassed by several individual counts in Iowa this past winter. Probably the most unusual species on the list was Black-billed Magpie found at Sioux City. As was usual, Des Moines, with 42 species, was the high count. Among several short notes, four were about Snowy Owls, a species that evidently had an invasion in 1949–1950. Finally, a note by James Hodges who is still an IOU member, discusses his investigation of an Eskimo Curlew specimen taken at Davenport in 1901 and apparently was the last record of the species for Iowa.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Note from Editor

Kayleen A. Niyo

I feel very honored to have been recommended for the position as editor of *Iowa Bird Life* and to be entrusted with the editorial responsibilities. It is quite intimidating, however, to follow in the footsteps of such outstanding editors as Jim Dinsmore and Tom Kent. But I will do my best to maintain their standards of excellence. The *Iowa Bird Life* editor's responsibilities are similar to many of the managing scientific editor's duties that I have performed for CAST for more than 12 years. But I do not have the depth of professional ornithological expertise that Jim and Tom have. So I will be relying on them and many others to offer suggestions and information to me. I want to provide a journal that the membership will be proud of. It is *your* journal. So, it is important for me to hear from you. I also do not have a backlog of articles, so please submit your manuscripts or suggest to me good ideas and potential authors for articles. I encourage your communications. My life is full of e-mails! If you don't have e-mail, I welcome communication by mail too. So please provide me with your thoughts about *Iowa Bird Life*.

1531 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, IA 50014 (kniyo@aol.com)



MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member (without publications) (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the IOU); and Life (\$500 as single payment or \$125 for each of four years). Members also will receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Curt Nelson or Marty Pauley, 22675 Spruce Avenue, Mason City, IA 50401 (Mpauley@jumpgate.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue, 15 February for the Spring issue, 15 May for the Summer issue, and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. Manuscripts may be submitted on computer disk (preferably Microsoft Word or WordPerfect for PCs) or sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor. Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript if sending a disk. Alternatively, material can be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available through the editorial office. For order form, send self-addressed envelope to *Iowa Bird Life*, 1531 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, IA 50010.

Field Checklist of Iowa Birds, 1999 Edition: 5 for \$1.50, postpaid, and other IOU materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 S.W. Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 (mpwj@gateway.net). Also available at annual meetings.



OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Mark Proescholdt, President (2001), Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148

Tom Johnson, Vice President, (2001), 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211

Jane Clark, Secretary (2000), 9871 Lincoln Avenue, Clive, IA 50325

Rita Goranson, Treasurer (2000), 115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, IA 50401

Other members of the Board of Directors: **Dan Dorrance** (2000), **Maridel Jackson** (2001), **Curt Nelson** (2001), **James Scheib** (2000), **Phil Walsh** (2001)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Publications: Harold White (chair), Dan Dorrance, Jim Durbin, Ron Muilenburg

Records: Ann Johnson (secretary), Robert I. Cecil, Chris Edwards, James L. Fuller, Matthew C. Keene, W. Ross Silcock, James Sinclair

Membership: Carol Berrier, Galin Berrier, Barb Bettis, Rita Goranson

Library/Historical: Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter, Sue Spieker, Jan Walters, Hank Zaletel

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Fall 2000, To be announced

Spring 2001, Keosauqua

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the field reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Kayleen A. Niyo, 1531 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, IA 50010). An article describing the reporting process also is available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 3 March (Robert Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311)

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 3 June (Matthew C. Keene, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511)

Summer (Jun, Jul) — 3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014)

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 3 December (James L. Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, N.E., Iowa City, IA 52240)



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions, write Stephen J. Dinsmore, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

IOWA BIRDLINE: (319) 338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

IOU HOMEPAGE: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is (402) 292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Marty Pauley, 22675 Spruce Avenue, Mason City, IA 50401



